MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

20 FEBRUARY 1987

Lebanon

Fighting continued in West Beirut 20 February with the combatants using "heavy weapons," the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported, adding that an Amal Movement tank was shelling the area where the Soviet Embassy is located. The radio noted that the casualty toll has risen to more than 150 killed and 350 wounded. Beirut radio reported that, in an effort to reduce hostilities, several military checkpoints and patrols jointly manned by Amal, the PSP, and "Syrian observers" were established. In a statement carried by the same radio, Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, commander of the Syrian forces in Beirut, called for the immediate implementation of the cease-fire agreement. "Anyone who persists on the path of sedition and internecine fighting" will be considered a "criminal," the statement warned. Prime Minister Karami, who had previously announced his decision to leave the government, told Beirut radio that he will do his "utmost to alleviate the tragedies and disasters."

Iran-Iraq War

According to military spokesmen cited by INA, Iraqi warplanes carried out separate raids 19 and 20 February on large maritime targets off the Iranian coast. One spokesman added that such action is part of Iraq's "legitimate right" to cut off oil supplies that fuel Iranian aggressions. Another Iraqi military spokesman "vehemently denied" an Iranian report that three Iraqi jets were downed in combat over the Persian Gulf 20 February, INA reported.

An Iranian communique reported by IRNA stated that "some civilians" were killed and wounded when Iraqi warplanes bombed residential areas in Shiraz, Kuhdasht, Ilam, and their environs "early Thursday." The communique noted that Iranian reprisal shelling was halted at noon. In a communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio, Iraq acknowledged that three civilians were killed and nine wounded when Iranian shells fell on Basra and nearby villages.

Iraq

In remarks cited by Baghdad radio, First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan stressed the "positive results" of his talks with Chinese officials. Ramadan told a Beijing press conference that since the Iraqi leaders "highly trust" the PRC's neutrality on the Iran-Iraq war and its "firm desire" for peace, the question of weapons supply was not among the issues discussed by the two sides, XINHUA reported.

In other diplomatic activity, Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze began talks in Moscow, TASS reported. En route to the USSR, 'Aziz stopped over in Amman where he discussed current developments and bilateral relations with Jordanian King Husayn, according to Voice of the Masses radio.

Iran

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who is in New Delhi for a joint economic committee meeting, conferred with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, IRNA reported.

Sudan-USSR

A $100 million trade protocol was signed with the Soviet Union, SUNA reported, adding that a Sudanese Trade Ministry official said that the 3-year agreement is a "great step" in the normalization of relations between the two countries.

DRA

In a speech broadcast by Kabul radio, PDPA General Secretary Najibullah declared that the "complicated" process of national reconciliation is "strengthening" despite the reaction of "extremist opponents." Najibullah noted that 4,000 prisoners have been amnestied. The term of military service has been reduced and "concessions" to the military are under consideration, he said. Speaking at the inauguration of Kabul University's Islamic Studies Research Center, Najibullah affirmed that the party will accord theologians the traditional status, and he called on them to contribute to eradicating Afghanistan's "age-old backwardness."

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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Al-Wazir: 'Spirit of Cooperation' at Amman Talks

NC191009 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Feb 87 p 1

[Excerpt] Amman — *Al-Sharq al-Awsat* — Khalil al-Wazir, the deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has said that the meetings of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee were successful and had achieved their purpose.

He added that the meetings were one step on the road of joint action to support the steadfastness of the Arab citizens in the occupied territories. In an exclusive interview with *Al-Sharq al-Awsat*, Al-Wazir said that a spirit of cooperation had prevailed during the 3-day talks between Jordanian and Palestinian officials.

Responding to a question about Jordan's plan for development in the occupied territories, Abu Jihad [Al-Wazir] said: We consider the issue of the kinsmen's steadfastness in the occupied territories a comprehensive Arab responsibility, and the Arab summit held in Baghdad defined both the implementative and financial aspects of this responsibility. A number of Arab countries will finance the plan, while a joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee will undertake its implementation and spending.

Regarding the possibility that Yasir 'Arafat might visit Jordan and meet with King Husayn, Khalil al-Wazir said: Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] met with King Husayn at the Islamic summit in Kuwait. Today I am in Amman. This is a signal that there are no permanent differences in Arab relations, just as there are no permanent relations. We hope, however, to resume relations with our brothers in Jordan soon on bases that are clearer and more understanding. These should in turn be based on the premise that differences in political stands and concepts should not mean alienation or estrangement.

As to how the PLO will respond if Jordan continues to insist that the organization recognize UN Resolution 242, Abu Jihad said: We have always declared our rejection of Resolution 242 because it deals with the Palestinian issue as one of refugees. It does not recognize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

The Palestinian official described the camps war as an open and overt Zionist plot. He noted: All the Zionist enemy leaders have spoken about it. They are hoping it will remain a way to strike at and deport about half a million Palestinians from Lebanon so that they might settle the Palestinian issue by setting up an alternative homeland in Jordan. We reject this; Jordan rejects it; our Arab nation rejects it, because it is a plot against the entire Arab nation. [passage omitted]

Leaves After Joint Meetings

JN190936 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0900 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, left Amman last night following a 5-day visit to Jordan during which he led the Palestinian side in the Jordanian-Palestinian joint committee for bolstering the steadfastness of kinfolk in the occupied territory, which resumed its activity in Jordan following a hiatus of approximately a year. Informed Jordanian sources asserted Abu Jihad did not hold any contacts with Jordanian officials while the joint committee was meeting. The official Jordanian communique issued at the end of the meetings of this committee did not refer to Abu Jihad's participation in committee work or even to his presence in Amman.

'Arafat Receives Message From Senegal's Diouf

JN200613 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1814 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] received (Mostafa Sysy), adviser to Senegalese President Abdou Diouf and personal envoy to brother leader Abu 'Ammar, at his Baghdad residence yesterday. The envoy conveyed a message from Senegalese President Abdou Diouf to brother leader Abu 'Ammar dealing with bilateral relations and the means to bolster them, the means to develop the joint PLO-Senegalese struggle for the goals of the Palestinian and Senegalese people, and the struggle of the people opposed to Zionism and racism. The message reiterated Senegal's consistent position in support of our people's just struggle against the Zionist occupation to regain all their legitimate rights under the PLO leadership, their sole legitimate representative. The message also stressed Senegal's denunciation of the ugly aggression to which the Palestinian camps in Lebanon are being subjected. At the end of the meeting, brother leader Abu 'Ammar gave (Mostafa Sysy) a message for Senegalese President Abdou Diouf. The meeting was attended by the Senegalese ambassador in Baghdad and Brother 'Azzam al-Ahmad, PLO representative in fraternal Iraq.

Qaddumi Visits Italy; Meets Craxi, Andreotti

For reportage on PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi's visit to Italy, including meetings with Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi and ForeignMinister Giulio Andreotti, see the Italy section of the 20 February Western Europe *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

PDRY

Minister on 'Increasing Sabotage' 'Activity'

EA192348 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Brother Sa'id Salih Salim, YSP Political Bureau member and minister of state security, ended his inspection tour of Abyan Governorate yesterday.

During his visit, the brother minister met with members of the governorate's security and military establishments and briefed them on the results of the seventh party Central Committee session. He asked them to carry out strictly the tasks facing them and to strengthen their security and combat capabilities and vigilance in view of the daily increasing sabotage and conspiratorial activity against our progressive regime and revolution. At the same time, he said our party and people are fully confident that all conspiracies and acts of sabotage will fail and will be nipped in the bud just as all conspiracies, the most dangerous and important of which was the 13 January abortive coup conspiracy which was thwarted thanks to the vigilance of the security and military establishments and the rallying of the masses of our people around our leading party, the YSP.

Brother Sa'id Salih Salim commended the security and military establishments for defending the revolution, safeguarding its achievements, and confronting all the conspiracies to which our country and party were exposed. The brother minister concluded his speech to the members of the security and defense establishments by stressing the need to double energies and efforts, intensify activities, and draw up various plans and programs for the general party conference [preceding word in English] and the 20th anniversary of national independence.

Party-Government Group Returns From Ethiopia

EA191739 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Excerpts] Comrade Salim Salih Muhammad, YSP Central Committee assistant secretary general and Central Committee secretary, and the party and government delegation accompanying him, returned to Aden at noon today from Addis Ababa at the conclusion of a visit to Socialist Ethiopia. [passage omitted]

On arrival at Aden airport Brother Salim Salih Muhammad made a statement in which he said: The visit we paid to Socialist Ethiopia came at the invitation of the WPE Central Committee and is an extension of the visit (?paid by) Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, YSP Central Committee secretary general. It was aimed at further deepening the comradely relations binding the two parties and peoples of Democratic Yemen and Socialist Ethiopia, and at discussing the latest developments in the region as well as bilateral relations and ways to strengthen them.

He stressed that both sides reaffirmed their willingness to continue those principled relations which embody the historical ties and strategic interests imposed by shared suffering, joint struggle and the identical aims of our two peoples and parties in Democratic Yemen and Socialist Ethiopia.

The brother assistant secretary general said the visit will go down in the (?annals) of history as one which adds to our joint efforts in Democratic Yemen and Socialist Ethiopia to reinforce, strengthen, and improve the intimate relations.

The comrade assistant secretary general said that frank and comprehensive talks were held in a comradely and cordial atmosphere with Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, WPE secretary general, PMAC chairman, and Ethiopian revolutionary forces commander in chief. During the talks emphasis was placed on the joint aims shared by the two parties and on the consolidation and expansion of the militant relations between them. He pointed out that there is a concurrence of views on the issues discussed.

He conveyed an invitation [to Comrade Mengistu] from Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid to visit the PDRY. The invitation was accepted. The date of the visit will be fixed later.

QATAR

QNA: Oil Minister on Economic Issues, OPEC

JN191338 Doha QNA in Arabic 0840 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Excerpts] Doha, 19 Feb (QNA) — Qatari Finance and Oil Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani has praised the OPEC countries' abidance by the organization's resolutions and the non-OPEC oil-producing countries' response to these resolutions for achieving stability in the oil market. In an interview with the Qatari *Al-Rayah* and *Gulf Times* papers today, the Qatari minister said OPEC countries have a clear political determination to seriously work for making OPEC resolutions successful, particularly the resolutions on prices and production. He explained that the big oil price hikes on the free market since OPEC issued its resolutions last December show that most OPEC countries abide by these resolutions. [passage omitted]

The Qatari minister said some OPEC countries continue to violate these resolutions but these violations are insignificant and of limited impact. He said these violations would end. He also said it would not have been possible to achieve some stability on the oil market had it not been for the sincere cooperation of non-OPEC countries, which took effective measures to reduce their oil exports, particularly following the successful visits by Hisham al-Nazir, Saudi petroleum and mineral resources minister, to Egypt, Norway, and the USSR. [passage omitted]

In reply to a question on whether he expects a rise in oil prices and whether they can exceed $20 per barrel, the Qatari minister said he believes there are many positive signs that make one optimistic on the future trends of prices, foremost of which is the complete abidance of most OPEC countries with the production quotas and the official prices announced by OPEC, and the positive response by most non-OPEC oil-producing countries and their contribution to the position of OPEC countries in defending prices and achieving stability in the oil market, as well as the complete conviction of oil-producing countries of the need to

exert efforts to achieve the common objective of all. [passage omitted]

In reply to a question on what has been achieved on the level of coordinating economic and oil policies among GCC countries, the Qatari minister said he is confident the measures so far adopted or the measures still under discussion in this respect will ultimately lead to achieving the objectives contained in the unified economic agreement.

The Qatari minister said there were great achievements over the past 5 years. He added: We hope to achieve better results in the future. He said that at the recent meeting of the committee for financial and economic cooperation it had been agreed to restructure economic action in accordance with an agreed on timetable.

Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani said he is confident all the GCC countries will work to achieve this program within the timetable that has been set for it and maybe in advance of it. He said the implementation of any joint economic activity faces difficulties but the political determination at the highest level will overcome these diffuclties and will lead to achieving these objectives within the set timetable. [passage omitted]

In his interview with *Al-Rayah* and *Gulf Times*, the Qatari minister spoke about the new budget for the State of Qatar. He said the 1987-1988 budget is still under preparation, although its main features are ready. He added that these features are still undergoing assessment and audit operations. [passage omitted]

He explained that expenditures in the budget will be in accordance with the general policy formulated by his highness the amir and his heir apparent, consisting of continuing the policy of austerity and putting emphasis on priority projects that cannot be postponed. [passage omitted]

The minister said: In spite of this austerity policy and the fact that only some of the demands of ministries, departments, and public authorities will be implemented, we expect the deficit to reach 2,500 million riyals or more. [passage omitted]

Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifha Al Thani said the economic state of affairs in Qatar is not bad when compared with the state of affairs in many countries that mainly depend on oil sales, and that in spite of the economic recession, the state of affairs in Qatar is still good because its balance of payments is sound and Qatar has not resorted to borrowing from abroad. [passage omitted]

On the exploitation of the Al-Shamal gas field, the Qatari minister said big steps have been made in the sphere of developing this field and our contacts with many gas-consumer countries, particularly the countries in Asia, have shown there are possibilities for exporting Qatari gas to these countries. He hoped the remaining few steps in the development of this gas field would be completed soon in preparation for exporting Qatari gas in the early 90's. [passage omitted]

UAE

USSR Banking Delegation Ends Visit; Departs

JN200914 Doha QNA in Arabic 0755 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 20 Feb (QNA) — A USSR banking delegation concluded a visit to the UAE and left last night after holding talks with officials of a number of commercial banks. The visit aimed at bolstering relations of trade and banking cooperation between the two sides and at providing better terms to activate trade and implement joint economic projects. Vladimir Dobrovidov, deputy chairman of the USSR Foreign Trade Bank [name and title as received] led the delegation on this visit. [passage omitted]

Al-Shariqah Ruler Returns From YAR, Sudan Visits

JN200838 Doha QNA in Arabic 0740 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] Al-Shariqah, 20 Feb (QNA) — His Highness Shaykh Sultan ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi, member of the UAE Supreme Federal Council and the ruler of Al-Shariqah, returned to Al-Shariqah from Khartoum early this morning following an official 3-day visit to Sudan. During the visit, His Highness Shaykh Sultan ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi met with State Council Chairman Ahmad al-Mirghani and a number of senior Sudanese officials. The Al-Shariqah ruler visited the YAR earlier.

YAR

President Salih Sends Message to Gorbachev

JN200715 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has received a written message from Brother President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and secretary general of the General People's Congress. The message was conveyed by 'Abduh 'Uthman, the YAR ambassador to the Soviet Union, when he met with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Moscow yesterday.

More on Al-Mahdi-Led Sudanese Delegation's Visit

Al-Mahdi Addresses Sudanese in Cairo

JN191308 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1035 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Cairo, 19 Feb (SUNA) — Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has affirmed Sudan's determination to establish peace throughout Sudan in spite of Ethiopian support for the rebels, a support which has aims and goals. Al-Mahdi, who was addressing members of the Sudanese community in Cairo on a number of national issues, including the problem of southern Sudan, said plans have been drawn up to hold a national constitutional conference to discuss the problems raised by citizens in southern Sudan, adding that a system to administer southern Sudan that brings the political forces together has been initiated. He referred to the Southern Administration Council, formed last week.

Al-Mahdi noted his current visit to Egypt is part of the constant Sudanese-Egyptian contacts. He said relations between Sudan and Egypt must be based [words indistinct] the Sudanese people. He hoped agreement would be reached on the proposed fraternity charter as an expression of the special relations binding the two countries.

The prime minister also said committees of experts on the present Sudanese laws [have been formed] and alternative laws are now being studied by the country's political forces so they can make a decision on them. The laws will then be referred to the Constituent Assembly, which will discuss them.

Al-Mahdi also said a report drawn up by a committee set up to review problems in higher education in Sudan has been referred to the cabinet. He hoped higher education problems would be resolved in light of the report.

Joint Committee Discusses Charter

NC191548 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Cairo, 19 Feb (MENA) — The Sudanese-Egyptian joint political committee held its first meeting today at the NDP Headquarters in the Nile Corniche Hotel.

Dr Yusuf Wali, NDP secretary general and deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation, led the Egyptian delegation to the talks. The delegation included Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif; Education Minister Dr Fathi Surur; Irrigation Minister 'Isam Radi; Health Minister Raghib Duwaydar; and a number of cabinet and Foreign Ministry advisers.

The Sudanese delegation was headed by Dr Husayn Abu Salih, minister of health and social welfare. It was composed of Muhammad Tawfiq, minister of information; Joshua Dewal, minister of local government; members of the Sudanese constituent body [al-hay'ah al-ta'sisiyah]; and cabinet and Foreign Ministry advisers.

Following the talks, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said the joint committee discussed a working paper on the principles of the Sudanese-Egyptian brotherhood charter. He noted the paper emphasizes the eternal ties between the two fraternal peoples. It also takes care to place the historical and everlasting bonds between the two countries in their appropriate setting, above partisanship, whims, and personal impressions, in a manner in keeping with the great and good relationship between the two frateral peoples.

Safwat al-Sharif added that in their discussions the Egyptian and Sudanese delegations were in agreement on the principles, foundations, and values contained in the brotherhood charter, which reflects the common destiny and interests of the two fraternal peoples.

Al-Sharif pointed out the bases of the brotherhood charter are unalterable. They govern the relations, principles, and interests of both countries. He noted the working paper deals with the role of Egypt and Sudan in the Arab, Islamic, and African worlds, as well as with matters of common interest. It also discusses the question of economic and trade cooperation for mutual benefit, as well as cooperation in the fields of culture, health, transportation, roads, communications, and information.

The Egyptian information minister asserted that during the discussions there was complete identity of view on the contents of the brotherhood charter paper.

In conclusion, he said a joint statement will be released at the end of the current negotiations. It will deal with Egypt's and Sudan's foreign, economic, information, and cultural policies, and will specify the issues agreed upon by the two countries.

Al-Mahdi Tours War Plants

NC191816 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Excerpts] Abu Za'bal, 19 Feb (MENA) — Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has declared: The Arab nation must achieve self-sufficiency in military technology, for without it, we cannot protect our Islamic sanctities, our Arab honor, and our national interests. He added: I believe this is the first step toward overall military self-sufficiency, which will be the fulfillment of our hopes.

In statements he made today following his visit to Plant 15 of the Abu Za'bal engineering company, one of the sites for heavy military industry, the Sudanese prime minister said he was impressed by the high morale of all those working there. He expressed his delight at the high morale and the standard of the work achieved at the plant.

Al-Mahdi arrived at the company headquarters at 1000 today accompanied by Eng 'Isam Radi, minister of irrigation and head of the team escorting his excellency during his visit to Egypt. [passage omitted]

The Sudanese prime minister then inspected Plant 100. This plant produces various types of artillery of all calibers and lengths used for general purposes, including field artillery, howitzers, tank artillery, and antiaircraft guns. These weapons are manufactured entirely by the company from the raw material stage,

without any foreign assistance. The Sudanese prime minister was accompanied by the Egyptian minister of state for war production and the director of the Abu Za'bal company. [passage omitted]

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi was shown the plant's finished products, including 122-mm w-30 howitzers, 23-mm antiaircraft guns, 130-mm field artillery, and 105-mm and 115-mm tank artillery.

He also inspected development processes, including the mounting of mobile guns on track vehicles and the modification of the T-55 Soviet tank by fitting it with a U.S.-style 105-mm gun, produced by the company, instead of the tank's original 100-mm gun.

Dr Jamal al-Sayyid Ibrahim, minister of state for war production, explained the military manufacture processes in Egypt, noting the National Commission for War Production is one of the country's major industrial producers. [passage omitted]

The minister of state for war production said the war manufacture sector produces all types of ordnance for our Armed Forces, including small firearms such as pistols, short-barrel machineguns, automatic rifles, light- and medium-caliber ammunition, and ammunition for heavy artillery, howitzers, mortars, and tank artillery. He pointed out production of these items is sufficient for the needs of the Armed Forces, and the surplus is exported.

He added the National Commission for War Production complements the work of the Arab Organization for Industrialization, which is involved in the manufacture of artillery rockets and antitank rockets of all types, in addition to ground-to-air missiles and heat-seeking missiles. He noted we also produce training helicopters, advanced training aircraft, fighter aircraft parts and components for their engines, armored Walid and Fahd vehicles, and various types of jeeps. [passage omitted]

Sidqi Hosts Dinner

NC192201 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi hosted a dinner banquet this evening in honor of Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and the delegation accompanying him. The dinner was attended by ministers, deputy prime ministers, and the ambassadors of both countries.

Dr 'Atif Sidqi delivered a speech in which he welcomed Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and his accompanying delegation. He praised the democratic experiment in Sudan, declaring Sudan is Egypt's heart and mind. He added: It is an unalterable political fact that Sudan is part of us and we are part of it. Sudan's security, stability, and prosperity are Egypt's security, stability, and prosperity. He declared Egypt's Government and people are always ready to cooperate with fraternal Sudan to the utmost, applying Egypt's extensive capabilities to that end.

The prime minister said that there will be more frequent exchanges of visits by the two countries' officials in the future to promote bilateral cooperation. He also urged complete bilateral political coordination on the international level in the pursuit of solutions to Arab issues.

In conclusion, the prime minister wished Sudan's Government and people success on the path of democracy.

The Sudanese prime minister made a speech in which he expressed gratitude, in his own name and on behalf of his accompanying delegation, for the fraternal spirit with which he has been received by Egypt's officials and people alike, noting this spirit, which expresses the mutual feelings and common interests of the two fraternal countries, has joined them since time immemorial and will last forever.

Agreement Reportedly Reached With IMF

NC200702 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] Some diplomats said yesterday Egypt had agreed to a number of economic reforms in return for a loan from the IMF ranging from $200 and $300 million that will be used to streamline Egypt's balance of payments. According to the draft [not further specified], Egypt will increase the price of a number of commodities subsidized by the government.

Economic Delegation To Visit Soviet Union 3 Mar

JN191222 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 17 Feb 87 pp 1, 10

[Text] *Al-Akhbar* has learned a delegation under Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade, will visit the USSR on 3 March for a new and important round of the talks that began between Cairo and Moscow last December. The talks will focus on financial issues, particularly the settlement of debts and the accounting price of the pound sterling. The talks will also deal with the conclusion of a long-term 5-year agreement that will expand trade exchange by 15 percent annually. During the Cairo talks, the USSR side expressed the Soviet Government's readiness to participate in the replacement and renovation of projects it implemented in the fifties and sixties and to participate in the new 5-year development plan projects, whichwill start in June. This will take place through the conclusion of a new protocol for technical cooperation.

The delegation accompanying Dr Yusri Mustafa is expected to comprise experts in financial, economic, and trade affairs, and Central Bank officials. The current year's protocol for trade exchange signed in Cairo last December, under which exports and imports have reached $600 million, will not affect the long-term agreement for trade exchange to be signed in Moscow. The protocol will be amended to conform to the agreement.

It is worth mentioning the government has raised the accounting price of the dollar from 70 to 90 piasters on the operations with Sudan and this has led to great confusion among importers and exporters. It goes without saying the change in the accounting price of the pound sterling with the USSR will have the same result.

Al-Majid Meets Polish Deputy Foreign Minister

NC192009 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Excerpt] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met today with the visiting Polish deputy foreign minister and his accompanying delegation. They exchanged views on developments in the Middle East in light of Egypt's efforts to secure a comprehensive settlement of the crisis in the region. They also discussed developments in the Iraq-Iran war, bilateral relations, and ways of promote bilateral cooperation in various fields.

In addition, they reviewed the arrangements for the Polish prime minister's visit to Egypt, due to take place in April. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Receives Visiting CSSR Official

NC191622 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1435 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Cairo, 19 Feb (MENA) — Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi today received Frantisek Ondrich, minister-chairman of the People's Control Commission in the CSSR, who is visiting Cairo.

The meeting was attended by Mahmud 'Abdallah, chairman of the Egyptian Administrative Control Commission, and Milos Vesely, the CSSR ambassador in Cairo.

Al-Mahjub Meets DPRK People's Assembly Chairman

NC191605 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1520 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Cairo, 19 Feb (MENA) — NDP deputy leader Rif'at al-Mahjub has received Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the Standing Committee of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly.

During the meeting, the situation in the Middle East, developments in the Palestinian issue, and bilateral relations were discussed.

The Korean visitor praised President Husni Mubarak's wise policy aimed at the achievement of a just peace in the Middle East, and commended Egypt's struggle for development and progress. He also expressed his country's desire to cultivate bilateral relations in all fields.

The meeting was attended by O Chang-nim, the DPRK ambassador in Cairo, and Dr Muhammad 'Abd Allah, member of the NDP Secretariat.

Additional Communiques, Reports on Fighting

Communique No 2,577

JN191457 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1414 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Communique No 2,577 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 19 February 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In implementation of our great people's will embodied in our political leadership's wise decisions, to make the Khomeyniites realize Iraq's power and ability to inflict heavy losses on them through violent attacks on their dens, and to show our superiority in all combat fields, the planes of our Air Force carried out the following heroic missions:

1. At 2310 [2010 GMT, 18 February], our planes carried out a violent raid on the city of Dezful.

2. At 1000 [0700 GMT, 19 February], our planes carried out a raid on the city of Borujerd.

3. At 1030 today, our planes carried out a violent raid on the city of Gahvareh.

4. At 1032 today, our planes attacked the city of Aiwan [Juy Zar].

5. At 1035 today, our planes raided the city of Kuhdasht.

6. At 1037 today, our planes carried out a devastating raid on the city of Pol-e Dokhtar.

7. At 1039 today, our planes raided the city of Shekan.

8. At the same time our planes were directing their fatal bombs on the city of (Fadlallah).

9. At 1100 today, our planes hit their targets in the city of Hendiman.

10. At 1105 today, our planes raided their targets in the city of Shahabad [Eslamabad].

11. At 1118 today our planes dealt a destructive blow to the city of Shiraz.

12. At 1130 today, our planes dealt a violent and destructive raid on the city of Arkvaz.

13. At 1131 today, our planes accurately hit their targets in the city of Ilam.

Let the Khomeyniites know that we will repeat our blows in an unprecedented, more violent, and far-reaching manner if they violate the conditions set by our political leadership for halting the bombing of cities. These conditions are that the Iranian regime must completely stop its aggression against our border and must stop shelling residential areas in our country. Blessed be our gigantic Air Force, commanders, hawks, officers, and other ranks, for their great achievements in the past, whether in destroying the Khomeyniites' dens and vital targets or in harvesting the scoundrel remnants who tried to attack our country. Long live our people, their unique leader, and valiant Armed Forces. God is great, grantor of victory, and best of helpers.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 19 February 1987

Communique No 2,578

JN191729 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Communique No 2,578 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 19 February 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces are imposing their control over all battlefields through their superiority in equipment, number of troops, morale, and determination to protect the homeland's border from the aggressors' filth. The following is a summary of activities for last night and today:

1. The heroic men of the VII Army Corps continue to inflict heavy losses on the scoundrel aggressors daily. Our fighters in this sector killed more than 24 personnel of the defeated Khomeyniites; destroyed 5 vehicles, 3 ammunition dumps, and a 60-mm mortar; destroyed an infantry position and killed a number of scoundrels in it; and destroyed a gun emplacement and killed those manning it.

2. An enemy force estimated to be an infantry platoon, attempted to approach our valiant units in the II Army Corps sector. As usual, our fighters confronted it strongly with their weapons, inflicted several losses, and forced it to flee.

3. Four enemy personnel were killed and a 106-mm gun was destroyed in the I Special Army Corps sector, the Allahu Akbar Forces.

4. The anti-Arab Khomeyniite clique shelled the city of Basra and the villages of (Shahrazur) and Halabjah with long-range artillery. The enemy shelling led to the martyrdom of a citizen in the city of Basra, the martyrdom of two children and the wounding of two citizens, including a child, in the village of (Shahrazur), and the wounding of seven citizens, including six children in Halabjah.

May God grant mercy and forgiveness to our martyrs and a swift recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 19 February 1987

Maritime Target Hit Near Iran

JN192054 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2045 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Feb (INA)— Iraqi fighter planes carried out a devastating raid on a very large maritime target near the Iranian coast tonight.

A military spokesman told INA that the Iraqi planes, which dealt an accurate and effective blow to the very large maritime target at 2030 Baghdad local time [1730 GMT today], returned safely to base. The spokesman stressed this raid is within Iraq's legitimate right to cut off the Iranian regime's oil supplies which are being used to carry out aggressions against our country.

2d Target Hit Near Iran

JN201157 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1145 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Feb (INA) — Iraqi fighter planes launched a successful raid on a large maritime target off the Iranian coast this morning. A military spokesman told INA a short while ago that the Iraqi fighter planes, which dealt the large maritime target an accurate, effective blow at 1135 Baghdad local time [0835 GMT] today, returned safely to base. The spokesman asserted this raid is to prevent the Iranian regime from exploiting its economic resources to perpetuate the war and to confirm Iraq's ability to destroy all means of aggression.

Loss of 3 Planes Denied

JN201313 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1254 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Feb (INA) — An Iraqi military spokesman has vehemently denied Iranian claims of downing three Iraqi planes in an air battle. The spokesman told INA a short while ago that all that happened was that Iraqi planes dealt a blow to a large maritime target and that an Iranian Air Force F-14 plane was spotted in the air. The Iraqi planes tried to hunt down the Iranian plane, which fled.

The spokesman asserted that all Iraqi planes that carried out their missions returned safely to base. He said: A battle, therefore, did not take place and what the Iranian regime said was a lie. It seems the new Iranian Air Force commander has begun to vie with his rulers in fabricating matchless lies, he added.

The Iranian regime has claimed that three Iraqi planes were downed in an air battle.

Information Minister Meets Jordanian Counterpart

JN191502 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Latif Nusayyif Jasim, Iraqi minister of culture and information, met with Jordanian Information Minister Muhammad al-Khatib and his delegation this morning. Latif Nusayyif Jasim praised fraternal Jordan's position on Iraq's side in the holy battle it is waging in defense of its land, civilization, and noble values, and against the aggression of the Iranian regime, which allied itself with Zionism. The minister said this position embodies the genuine Arab spirit and its common destiny, by confronting provocations and all the enemies of the Arab nation who covet its land and who harbor hatred for its glorious heritage. He added that regardless of the bitterness of the war, we as brothers must promote our ties.

During the meeting, Latif Nusayyif Jasim reviewed the role of culture and information in Saddam's glorious Al-Qadisiyah. He said: We believe that fighting is not only with guns, but with literature, poems, and righteous words.

Muhammad al-Khatib greeted Iraq and its honorable battle in defense of the Arab nation's dignity and sovereignty and against the aggressors. He said Jordan supports fraternal Iraq because it strongly believes this country has made great sacrifices in blood, efforts, and funds in the pan-Arab battles. He added that the Iraqi blood had become mixed with the Arab brothers' blood in their battles against the Zionist entity in Palestine, Sinai, the Golan Heights, and Jordan, and that Iraq has never hesitated to support any Arab country exposed to aggression.

The two ministers discussed cooperation between the cultural and information institutions in the two fraternal countries and ways to promote cooperation in all fields.

Soviet SAM Missiles Reportedly Delivered

JN200937 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 18 Feb 87 p 1

[Text] *Al-Ittihad* has learned Jordan's Armed Forces recently took delivery of new consignments of Soviet anti-aircraft SAM-8, SAM-13, and SAM-14 missiles. *Al-Ittihad* has also learned Jordan's Air Force will soon begin receiving Spanish-made military aircraft, including 14 military jet trainer aircraft of the CASA C-101 Aviojet make and two CN-235 medium-range tactical military transport planes, co-produced with Indonesia.

Al-Ittihad has learned from informed military circles an agreement has been reached with France on supplying the Jordanian Army with 500 APILAS light anti-armor weapons and with the UK on supplying 1,000 LAW anti-armor weapons as replacements for existing systems.

Iraq's 'Aziz Meets Husayn, Leaves for Moscow

JN191212 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi RCC member and foreign minister, at the Royal Hashemite Court today. Tariq 'Aziz conveyed a verbal message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to King Husayn on relations between the two fraternal countries and Arab and international developments.

The prime minister; the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; the minister of court; and the commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces were present during the meeting.

'Tariq 'Aziz has left Amman for Moscow.

Further on Visit by Spanish Defense Minister

Discusses Supply Readiness

JN190856 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19-20 Feb 87 pp 1, 4

[By Rana Sabbagh, *Jordan Times* staff reporter]

[Text] Amman — Spanish Defence Minister Narciso Serra said on Wednesday his country was ready to supply arms to Jordan whenever the Kingdom made such requests.

Spain has always responded positively to Jordan's request for defence equipment since "we understand the situation in the area," said Dr. Serra in a press conference capping his three-day visit which ends Thursday.

He said although Spain maintains an embargo against arms sales to Iraq, Iran, Libya and Syria, "there are no restrictions whatsoever on weapon supplies to Jordan."

Dr. Serra, 44, who arrived here from Saudi Arabia on Tuesday at the head of a six-member military delegation, was received by His Majesty King Husayn on Tuesday. Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and Armed Forces Commander in Chief General Al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir also held talks with the Spanish minister.

Replying to a question, the minister said that the first batch of 16 CASA C101 trainer aircraft Jordan ordered from Spain in 1985 were expected to arrive here "this May or June." The $90 million aircraft deal was signed here on Dec. 24, 1985. Dr. Serra said the package was "prepared in a very favourable financial scheme." Spain, he said, is ready for similar financial arrangements to cover future supplies of equipment to Jordan.

He termed the C101 planes as a "strong aircraft adapted for training."

Asked whether his talks here covered possible Spanish arms sales to Jordan, Dr. Serra said: "I am not in Jordan as an arms dealer but as a member of my government." However, he said, "my country will be very happy if we can further strengthen the existing ties" between the Air Forces of the two countries.

Dr. Serra said Jordanian-Spanish cooperation in the field of defence also included exchange of visits by military delegations and trainees.

Replying to another question, Dr. Serra said Spain had no military cooperation progammes with Israel and that he "foresaw no future relationship between the two countries in this field."

"Our relations with Israel are limited to the areas of politics, economics and culture," he said.

Spain established diplomatic relations with Israel in January 1986 but said Madrid's support for Arab causes would not diminish in light of the move. Madrid also granted diplomatic status to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) office in Spain.

Asked whether reports of alleged Spanish arms sales to Iran figured in his talks here, Dr. Serra said "the issue was not mentioned." Madrid has denied the reports.

However, Dr. Serra, said: "If one of Spain's private industry is selling arms to Iran, it is clearly violating our (the government's) restrictions, and we are investigating all that."

Asked to comment on the focus of his talks with King Husayn, Dr. Serra said the discussions covered the Palestine problem and ways to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict, in addition to the general situation in the Middle East and a survey of the situation in Spain.

He said that his country believed that the solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict could come only through an international conference attended by the five permament members of the U.N. Security Council and all parties involved in the conflict, including the PLO.

Asked on reservations voiced by some fellow members of the 12-nation European Community (EC) over convening an international conference on the Middle East, Dr. Serra said "there is now a common agreement" within the Community that such a

conference was the proper forum to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict. He said his country was lobbying with its EC colleagues to convince them of the necessity to convene such a conference "as soon as possible."

Ends Visit, Departs

JN191233 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Spanish Defense Minister Narciso Serra i Serra left Amman today following an official visit to Jordan lasting several days. During his visit, Narciso Serra met with His Majesty King Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and visited military positions and archaeological and historical sites in Jordan. The visiting Spanish minister was seen off by General Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Armed Forces; Lieutenant General Fathi Abu Talib, chief of staff of the Armed Forces; aides to the chief of staff; deputy commander of the Royal Air Force; the Spanish ambassador in Amman; and the Spanish military attache in Amman.

Further on Visit by CSSR Trade Delegation

Received by Planning Minister

JN191543 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Amman, 19 Feb (PETRA) — Minister of Planning Tahir Kan'an today received Jan Garcar, Czechoslovak deputy minister of foreign trade and head of the Czechoslovak side to the meetings of the joint Jordanian-Czechoslovak committee, and members of the joint committee.

During the meeting, the minister emphasized the need to enhance and develop the existing ties of cooperation between the two friendly countries and to exert every effort to support and develop bilateral trade. He also emphasized the need to stabilize the trade balance now in favor of the CSSR by increasing Jordanian exports to the CSSR.

Jan Garcar expressed his admiration and appreciation of the measures and steps the Jordanian Government has adopted to increase growth rates. He also voiced his appreciation and admiration of the Jordanian Government's wise utilization of available resources and of the development projects it has been carrying out.

The Czechoslovak side listened to a detailed explanation of the tasks and duties of the ministry and its role in preparing and following up the Kingdom's economic and social plans. The visiting delegation also listened to an explanation of the prominent features of the development plan and the measures the government has taken to adapt to the international economic variables and to those affecting the region. The Jordanian side explained to the Czechoslovak side the objectives of the development program for the occupied territories, which seeks to alleviate the kinfolk's suffering and entrench the residents' presence on their homeland by carrying out development and service projects there and creating job opportunities to help overcome the unemployment phenomenon experienced by our people in the occupied part of our homeland. The measures adopted to support exports of products from the occupied territories were also explained to the visiting Czechoslovak delegation.

Dr Ziyad Fariz, secretary general of the Ministry of Planning, and a number of ministry directorate heads attended the meeting.

Meets Public Works Minister

JN192001 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Public Works Minister Eng Mahmud al-Hawmidah met with Jan Garcar, Czechoslovak deputy minister of foreign trade, and his delegation today. The minister reviewed the cordial relations between Jordan and Czechoslovakia, as well as the existing technical cooperation, particularly engineering expertise in building roads and health resorts, and in natural therapy.

The meeting was attended by the under secretary of the Ministry of Public Works, the director of the Government Tenders Department, a number of officials of the ministry, and the CSSR charge d'affaires in Amman. It is noteworthy that it was recently decided to build a road between Al-Jafr and Al-Azraq sometime during the next 2 months.

YAR Foreign Minister Ends Visit, Departs

JN191242 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, YAR deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Amman at noon today at the conclusion of a 3-day visit to Jordan during which he met with His Majesty King Husayn; His Highness Crown Prince Hasan; Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i; and ranking officials. He also chaired the YAR side to the meetings of the Higher Jordanian-YAR Committee, which concluded in Amman yesterday evening.

In a statement to PETRA and the radio correspondent, Dr al-Iryani said: It was a good opportunity for us to visit Jordan and to have the honor of meeting with His Majesty King Husayn. I conveyed to his majesty a letter from Brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on promoting bilateral relations.

Joint Committee Communique Issued

JN191321 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Amman — Jordan and the YAR have affirmed their belief in the need to achieve a just, comprehensive, and lasting solution to the Middle East question guaranteeing complete Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, and safeguarding the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. The two sides also affirmed their pan-Arab [qawmi] commitment to stand by fraternal Iraq in its defense of its land, rights, and national dignity.

The two sides hoped the Lebanese people would be able to end their ordeal and achieve their aspirations to safeguard Lebanon's territorial integrity and protect Lebanon's independence and full sovereignty. The two sides also expressed great sorrow over the tragedies occurring in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon and affirmed their commitment to strengthen and develop joint Arab action.

In a joint communique issued in Amman today at the end of the meetings of the Jordanian-YAR joint committee, the two sides emphasized their desire to strengthen bilateral relations for further cooperation and coordination, particularly in education, health, electricity, communications, energy, agriculture, irrigation, and in joint projects, and to bolster and develop economic cooperation and trade.

Al-Masri Leaves for Brussels EEC Ministers Forum

JN191954 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri left Amman for Brussels at noon today on a working visit during which he will meet with Leo Tindemans, Belgian foreign minister and current chairman of the EC Council of Foreign Ministers. Al-Masri will also meet with a number of EEC foreign ministers.

The foreign minister's visit comes on the eve of the EEC foreign ministers meeting, which will be devoted to a discussion of the Middle East issue related to the agreement reached during the EC meeting in London last December.

A European stand in the form of general principles for the establishment of peace in the Middle East is expected to be developed during this meeting.

Reportage on Damascus Meetings To End Fighting

Khaddam Meets Junblatt, Others

JN200648 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Excerpts] Fighting in West Beirut has subsided but the clashes have not yet stopped. It was observed that the ferocity of the street fighting has abated since yesterday evening for two reasons: first, some neighborhoods are under the full control of the PSP and the Communists; second, the call by Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of the security and surveillance department of the Syrian forces in Lebanon, for a complete and immediate cease-fire, in which he openly threatened that Syrian forces would open fire on any militiaman who does not withdraw from the streets. [passage omitted]

Nabih Birri, Walid Junblatt, and George Hawi are in Damascus. PSP leader Walid Junblatt and Lebanese Communist Party Secretary General George Hawi arrived in Damascus yesterday. Amal leader Nabih Birri is also in Damascus. However, surprisingly, Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam did not receive Junblatt and Hawi immediately upon arrival in Damascus. Informed sources linked Khaddam's delay in meeting with Junblatt and Hawi's absence with the Syrian vice president's initial refusal to meet with the two officials.

The informed sources said Khaddam met with Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, who is mediating with the three officials. Khaddam then met with Riyad Ra'd, member of the Syrian Social National Party Political Bureau. Khaddam then met with PSP leader Walid Junblatt, who prior to his departure for Damascus had said the purpose of his visit to Damascus was to define a political stand compatible with the new security plan for West Beirut. [passage omitted]

Karami, Others Leave for Syria

NC201058 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid Karami, Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, and Minister Salim al-Huss left for Damascus around noon. A meeting between Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Ministers Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt is scheduled to be held in Damascus today.

Political, Military Developments in Beirut

Junblatt on Cease-Fire

NC191129 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] PSP leader Walid Junblatt made a statement today as follows: I sent a message to Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an urging him to consolidate the cease-fire, regardless of the cost. I issued strict orders to the PSP officials in Beirut to cooperate with the Syrian observers to settle the situation so as not to provide an opportunity to the other forces, such as those of 'Arafat, to benefit from what is happening and consequently enter the line to undermine any agreement.

Junblatt added: My instructions to the PSP officials are clear and strict. They provide for ceasing fire and moving toward preparation for a serious security plan. We ask the Amal Movement to respond and work for the security plan's success.

He stated: What concerns us now is that we achieve a real cease-fire. Consequently, we are prepared to help implement a security plan under the supervision of Syrian observers, a plan based on withdrawing the gunmen and closing all but one office for the Amal Movement, PSP, and other parties.

Junblatt stressed the need to control the security situation, to cooperate with the Syrians to cease fire, and to withdraw the gunmen in order that we might begin implementing other measures that will facilitate a new security plan.

Junblatt said he did not go to Damascus yesterday because he was compelled to stay here to assure himself that the fighting has stopped. He added that he and George Hawi will go to Damascus to discuss with the Syrian leaders and Minister Birri the political stand required to strengthen the security plan. He said: Most importantly, I do not want to repeat the 1976 tragedy or to live under those conditions again. I demand that the fighting be stopped to avoid a new camps war.

Junblatt declared: We do not want to link what is happening in Beirut now with the camps war. Therefore, I call for an immediate halt to this war. We have no objection to a serious deterrent force assuming the security for Beirut.

Responding to the prime minister's request that he and Minister Birri go to Beirut, Junblatt said: All of us, I, Minister Birri, and George Hawi, are prepared to go to Beirut to follow up the measures pertaining to the preparation of a serious security plan.

Amal Seeks 'Complete Victory'

JN191629 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] In clashes over the past 2 days, more than 150 people have been killed and more than 300 have been wounded in Beirut. Fierce clashes continued in the city this afternoon between Amal forces on the one hand and the communists and their allies on the other. Some news agencies say the leftist forces have taken control of certain positions and areas which had been under Amal control and that the communists and their allies have been fighting to wrest the strategic Burj al-Murr area from the Amal Movement since this morning. Fierce battles are also continuing in Tallat al-Khayyat, Corniche al-Mazra'ah, and Al-Tariq al-Jadidah.

Meanwhile, Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri said in Damascus that he had ordered his forces to continue fighting until complete victory. He said he is now compelled to continue the battle to face the plot which was concocted at home and abroad, as he put it.

Reports also say that PSP leader Walid Junblatt will arrive in

Damascus within the next few hours to meet with Birri and reach agreement with him on putting an end to the battles in West Beirut.

Amal on Appeal To End Clashes

NC191717 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] In response to party sources which called on the Amal Movement today to reduce the intensity of battles and to calm the situation, the Fifth Section of the Amal Movement's Central Military Bureau has issued the following statement:

We are surprised that these words should come from this particular party, specially after its direct involvement in the fighting against Amal and Syria. Once again, it calls for unity to fight Israel, while it has continued its attacks against the strugglers and the mujahidin in Tariq al-Jadidah and Mar Ilyas for 5 days. It has been shelling the southern suburb and trying to destroy Beirut in the furnace of sectarian conflict, while sheltering behind nationalist, progressive, and reform slogans. We attach no importance to its claims to want the security situation calmed down, because we know what its intentions and those of the Communist groups are. From the beginning, the statement adds, we have been anxious to respect the cease-fire, because we are aware of the dangers this situation poses to the nationalist and Islamic presence as a whole.

These appeals, the statement continues, come in the wake of this party's failure, together with its friends in the B'aqlin alliance, to harm the movement in West Beirut. The Amal Movement's presence is too strong to be uprooted from Beirut. The movement symbolizes the aspirations of all the Lebanese people who dream of a free homeland and a happy nation.

The statement adds: To those who are eager to see an end to the Lebanese war on just bases, we reiterate that we all want to fight Israel. That party, which is suddenly seeking to protect the interests of the Communists and liberate the homeland, should rather open up its battle front, which is more than 40 km long, to the faithful national resistance, and withdraw its elements from the ranks of the joint Israeli-Lahd militias.

Junblatt, Hawi Meet

NC191522 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Security and military developments were discussed at a meeting held in Al-Mukhtarah today between Walid Junblatt and George Hawi.

Afterward, Junblatt said: We met to assess the situation and try our utmost to end the horrible bloodshed that is sapping the strength of the national alliance between the Amal Movement and the PSP and inflicting suffering on the peaceful citizens of Beirut. We never wished to come to this point. We could have protected proud and courageous Arab Beirut against this catastrophe. But the crisis has already occurred. The bloodshed must end, so that the nationalist Lebanese may resist as one man the isolationist scheme in the north and the south.

Junblatt added: I understand the implications of Comrade Nabih Birri's remarks. I do not blame him. All I ask of him is an apology, because Al-Mukhtarah and Al-Musaytibah belong to both Walid Junblatt and Nabih Birri. In the meantime, we will endeavor to restore strength to the nationalist alliance and solidify the alliance with Syria.

Commenting on the statement made earlier by Dr Salim al-Huss, Junblatt said: We are all responsible for this catastrophe. The gunmen of both parties, he added, are responsible for the safety of the citizens and for preventing robberies and looting. I know how Dr al-Huss feels. However, the problem is much graver than this. We have to reach a basic political solution for problems occurring in the nationalist arena.

George Hawi [Lebanese Communist Party leader], for his part, said: We followed up the latest security and military developments in Beirut before leaving for Damascus. We had hoped to implement the cease-fire agreement, by imposing strict measures and giving firm orders to our fighters, before going there. However, we deeply deplore the warlike remarks made by Brother Birri in Damascus, in which he draws a wrong and harmful picture of the situation. There can be no such thing as a military solution for the Lebanese war. How can there be, when we are all members of the nationalist rank and partners in the same trench? The logic of military solutions is the way to self-destruction in the end, and cannot achieve any of the rights which nationalist parties claim to fight for. Let the war cries cease. Let us restrain ourselves and allow reason to prevail. For reason alone can save the country from its ordeal. Let us all commit ourselves to the security plan drawn up by sister Syria so that we may build the nationalist and progressive ranks on proper and solid foundations.

PSP: Fighting in 'Self-Defense'

NC191827 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] An official PSP source made the following statement this afternoon: Following the repeated meetings held between the PSP and the Amal Movement at the Syrian observers' headquarters in the last 48 hours, and acting on our belief that the events taking place in the nationalist arena are destructive to all of us, are a source of great disappointment for our nationalist plan, and serve only the cause of fragmentation, we declare that we fought this battle purely in self-defense, to prevent our nationalist factions from being attacked separately and to confront the real enemy, both in the north and in the south, together.

The official PSP source added: Based on this nationalist position, and because of our commitment to the security plan directed by our sister Syria, we emphasize our total adherence to the cease-fire, and will give every opportunity to the efforts to restore the normal democratic life in nationalist Beirut, the Beirut of 6 February. We are committed to the agreement and we hope our brothers in the Amal Movement will be completely responsive, so that we may all emerge from this destructive state of affairs.

Kan'an Issues Ultimatum

NC191848 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Statement issued by Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of the Security and Surveillance Department of the Syrian Forces, in Beirut on 19 February — read by announcer]

[Text] To all combatants in Beirut: A final cease-fire agreement has been reached providing for the withdrawal of all gunmen and ending all shows of military force. Since this morning, the regular forces have been taking up specific positions to remove fear and death from the city and its sons. Therefore, you are required to leave all positions. We would like to reassure everyone that there is nothing to fear, because this (?solution) constitutes a guarantee and security for all. This has been agreed on with the leaders of the various parties.

Your leaders have declared to us their total adherence to the resolutions that have been agreed on in this respect. There is no justification for one to fear another. Fear of individuals can only be removed by adherence to the cease-fire, withdrawal from the streets, and the general elimination of fear from the sons of this dear city, which retaliated and remained steadfast against the hordes of the Zionist occupation.

We call on you to immediately implement this and will hold you completely responsible for any failure to do so. We will henceforth consider anyone who persists on the path of sedition and internecine fighting as a criminal who has deviated from the values of humanity and will have to answer for his actions.

Casualty Toll Updated

NC200725 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Excerpts] According to reports this morning, fighting involving the use of rockets and machineguns is currently raging in the areas of Al-Tariq Al-Jadidah, Karakul al-Druze, Mar Ilyas, Wata Musaytibah, Corniche al-Mazra'ah, and the Arab University. [passage omitted]

Clashes also broke out in the vicinity of the Channel 7 television building in Tallat al-Khayyat at 0530 today. According to initial information provided by security sources, well over 150 people have been killed and 350 others wounded in the Beirut fighting.

Karami in 'Tragic Psychological Position'

NC192109 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Interview with Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami by unidentified correspondent on 19 February; place not given — recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] Mr Prime Minister, the media reported that the security plan reached today was in fact agreed upon in your home and with your consent. What is your assessment of this plan, [words indistinct]?

[Karami] [Words indistinct] other than to offer condolences to our people, who have been afflicted by fighting that has neither justification nor goal. It seems as if we are destined to continue to suffer from such self-inflicted actions. [passage omitted]

What can I say, other than that I am indeed in a tragic psychological position that does not permit me to promise that I will be able to serve our people, who have nothing to do with everything that is taking place. It suffices to congratulate the people on the fact that God has graced us after 4 intense and painful days. We can now call for a halt to the fighting between brothers and allies. If they respond, we thank them. For what? For all of the evil they have done to these people, who placed their confidence in them. [passage omitted]

[Question] What political efforts are you making to consolidate the security plan and to push it toward further success?

[Karami] Obviously, the forces in conflict must abide by the cease-fire and withdraw from the streets. Weapons must be collected, so that the legitimate authority can impose security and the rule of the law on everyone. I have invited all of the leaders to come back to Beirut, because their responsibilities are here. This is their home, with our citizens and people. If they come and meet, they must then discuss what they can and cannot do. They must talk about putting an end to violent action against their kinfolk and people and about protecting the people from those who wreak havoc and commit murder and destruction in Beirut. In so doing, we would be taking a long stride toward a return to normalcy in Lebanon.

[Question] On the security plan; it was arrived at in your home and with your concurrence. What political efforts will you undertake in the near future to save the people from the violent actions you cite?

[Karami] I announced yesterday that I decided to leave the government. However, my duty as a citizen dictates that I do my utmost to alleviate the tragedies and disasters that are befalling us daily. What can I say. The government is being affected by extraordinary circumstances. The government does not meet; not even half of its members, whom we call the Dialogue Committee, are meeting. This committee hasn't met in months. What can I say after this long silence and all of our bitter patience? [passage omitted]

Al-Husayni Appeals to Syria To 'Intervene'

NC191330 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni has appealed to the Syrian leadership and to President Hafiz al-Asad in particular, to intervene very quickly to save Lebanon from collapse.

Speaker al-Husayni called for giving a higher priority to finding a way to remove the injustice of the current armed anarchy. He stated: The extent of the deterioration, as well as the tragedy, pains, and destruction it has caused, is beyond imagination and control. This calls for giving a higher priority to its treatment to

eliminate the injustice of this armed anarchy from Beirut and preclude any last hope and opportunity for emerging from the tunnel of this long tribulation from being lost.

Speaker al-Husayni added: The only way to accomplish this is to provide the official security instrument with effective forces, supported by Syria, that would be capable of stopping the deterioration and removing this horrible nightmare from Beirut and eliminating the anarchy of weapons and gunmen from its streets. We demand that everyone abide by the cease-fire. We appeal to the Syrian leadership, and to President Hafiz al-Asad in particular, to intervene quickly to save Lebanon from its present tribulation and from the afflictions and dangers which threaten both its unity and fate, as well as that of its people.

Beirut Camps Reportedly Remain Under Siege
NC200607 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] According to PNSF sources, the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps remain under siege. Two women were killed as they attempted to leave Burj al-Barajinah yesterday. Meanwhile, 30 tons oF wheat flour were stolen from a UN convoy that was prevented from entering the Al-Rashidiyah camp yesterday.

Communist Party Official 'Assassinated' 19 Feb
NC200945 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] Gunmen assassinated Muhammad 'Ali Wahbah, the official in charge of the Lebanese Communist Party in Al-Nabatiyah, last night. Our correspondent has cited a security source as saying that gunmen stormed Wahbah's home in Hayy al-Bayyad in Al-Nabatiyah at 2230 and shot him with guns equipped with silencers, killing him instantly.

French UN Soldier Killed Defusing Bomb in South
NC201013 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] UNIFIL Spokesman Timor Goksel has announced that a soldier from the French UN contingent was killed while defusing a bomb on the road to (Sirbin) village this morning.

U.S. Muslim Official Arrives to Discuss Hostages
NC151226 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 15 Feb 87

[Text] Muhammad Mahdi, chairman of the National Council for Islamic Affairs in the United States, arrived in Beirut last night to work for the release of foreign hostages being held in Lebanon.

Appeals for Hostage Release
NC161247 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 16 Feb 87

[Text] Muhammad Mahdi, chairman of the National Council for Islamic Affairs in the United States, held a news conference at the Commodore Hotel [in West Beirut] today. He declared that his mission is to secure the release of all hostages, saying: We appeal to our brethren in Islam to release the hostages without conditions. He added: We also call on President Reagan to withdraw the U.S. force from its position near the Lebanese coast.

Escapes From W. Beirut Fighting
NC200552 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] American Muslims Muhammad Mahdi and (Dale Shahin), who were seeking to secure the release of the hostages, have managed to escape from West Beirut after being subjected to a robbery attempt. Their room in the Commodore Hotel was looted during the current partisan clashes. Mahdi said he and his companion will leave for Cyprus today. They intend to visit Jordan before returning to New York. It is not clear how the two men managed to leave the hotel, which suffered heavy damage during the fighting.

Further on Visit by Romanian Assembly Chairman

Parliamentary Talks Held

JN191516 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1215 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] A round of parliamentary talks was held this morning between a Syrian People's Assembly delegation under Speaker Mahmud al-Zu'bi and a Romanian Grand National Assembly delegation under Chairman Nicolae Giosan. The Romanian ambassador in Damascus attended.

During the session, the two sides reviewed relations between the two friendly countries on all levels, particularly on the parliamentary level, as well as the mutual desire to promote and bolster these relations to implement the directives of President Hafiz al-Asad and Nicolae Ceausescu. The two sides also reviewed the situation in the Middle East and the imperialist onslaught faced by the region's peoples and liberation and progressive forces. The two sides affirmed their views on the issues raised were identical.

In this context, the Romanian Grand National Assembly chairman praised Syria's courageous struggle under President Hafiz al-Asad for the sake of reconstruction and liberation, expressing admiration for the Syrian Arab people's achievements on all political, economic, agricultural, and social levels. He also praised the distinctive relations between Syria and Romania, established and developed through the concern of leader President Hafiz al-Asad and Nicolae Ceausescu. Nicolae Giosan expressed the hope these relations will be bolstered and further promoted, particularly on the parliamentary level.

For his part, Mahmud al-Zu'bi affirmed the desire to continue the march of friendship between the two countries and peoples. Al-Zu'bi gave an expanded briefing on the Assembly's activities and legislative role, as well as on the relationship between the legislative and executive authorities and the existing constructive cooperation in the Progressive National Front. He then referred to the huge burdens shouldered by Syria, its confrontation of the imperialist and Zionist schemes, and its relentless struggle for reconstruction and liberation. He referred to the steps taken in this regard, enumerating Syria's achievements in all fields.

Al-Zu'bi explained the multifaceted plots against Syria will not prevent it from continuing the march of struggle under the leadership of leader struggler Hafiz al-Asad until our Arab nation's objectives and victory are achieved over all schemes of capitulation, aggression, and hegemony concocted by U.S. imperialism and Zionism and their servants in the region.

Received by Foreign Minister

JN191352 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1215 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received at noon today Nicolae Giosan, Romanian Grand National Assembly chairman, and the delegation accompanying him, in the presence of Shakir Sa'id, head of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee at the People's Assembly, and the Romanian ambassador in Damascus. During the meeting, the talks dealt with the two countries' existing ties of friendship and cooperation. They also reviewed the current situation in the region and issues of common interest.

Cypriot AKEL Party Delegation Ends Visit

JN191700 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1615 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Damascus — The delegation of the Cypriot Progressive Party of the Working People, AKEL, headed by Comrade Adhonis Khristofinis, member of the Political Bureau and head of the party's International Relations Bureau, left Damascus at noon today following a visit to Syria at the invitation of the National Command of the Arab Socialsit Ba'th Party. During the visit, the visiting Cypriot delegation held party and political talks and met with a number of party and state officials.

The delegation was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Comrade Sami al-'Attari, member of the Ba'th Party National Command, and a number of comrades of the Party's Foreign Relations Bureau. A joint statement on the delegation's visit and the talks it held with Syrian officials will be issued later.

Al-Kasm Chairs Economic Committee Meeting

JN182113 Damascus Television Service in Arabic
1830 GMT 18 Feb 87

[Text] The Economic Committee held a meeting at 1830 today under Prime Minister 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm attended by the committee members and the head and members of the Executive Bureau of the Professionals Union. The Economic Committee also held a second meeting under Al-Kasm with the heads and members of the chambers of commerce and industry and their branches in Syria. The two successive meetings, held in the presence of the representatives of the vocational, trade, and industrial sectors, were aimed at discussing the objective proposals for effective moves to develop exports, find more labor opportunities in the various vocational, industrial, and production areas, increase and diversify the manufactured goods considered an alternative to imports, and export the surplus to foreign markets.

People's Assembly Discusses Domestic Issues

JN182045 Damascus Television Service in Arabic
1830 GMT 18 Feb 87

[Text] The People's Assembly held a session this evening under Speaker Mahmud al-Zu'bi attended by General Mustafa Talas, deputy prime minister, deputy commander in chief of the Army and the Armed Forces, and defense minister, and a number of ministers. During the session, the Assembly discussed a number of reports presented by its committees, including the National Security Committee's report on Legislative Decree No 1 for 1987 regarding the payment of a sum of money in lieu of military service. Gen Talas, who participated in the discussions, answered questions posed by the members about some of the decree's provisions. At the end of the discussions, the Assembly endorsed the report and the legislative decree.

The Assembly then listened to a reply by the Oil and Mineral Wealth Ministry to a question on the ministry's intention to deal with the pollution resulting from the gas plant waste in the Al-Suwaydiyah oil fields. The ministry said it had built the gas plant in Al-Suwaydiyah, and its actual investment had begun in 1985. However, the sulphur extraction unit broke down and work is under way to repair it and make it operational as soon as possible.

A number of Assembly members posed some questions about the basic law for the state employees, how it will be applied, and the need to enact it soon, as well as other questions on the moves of U.S. imperialism in the Arab region. This question was answered by Gen Mustafa Talas and the minister of social affairs and labor. The Assembly then listened to the members' written questions and referred them to the competent authorities in the government.

Support Week for South Lebanon Planned

JN190737 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Excerpts] The higher popular committee for bolstering southern Lebanon's steadfastness has issued a statement on the week of support for southern Lebanon and of solidarity with the fraternal Lebanese people and their national resistance. [passage omitted]

The higher popular committee for bolstering southern Lebanon's steadfastness, formed as a result of an initiative by the Ba'th Party Command, held its first meeting on 26 January 1987 during which it discussed holding a week of support for southern Lebanon's steadfastness and for securing the requirements of this steadfastness, and the working plans, methods, and the formulas that will render it a success. It decided to form two committees stemming from the higher popular committee, the first a financial committee and the second an information committee. The information committee will formulate information plans for rendering the week of support a success. It also decided to form subcommittees in the governorates and universities to formulate comprehensive plans for the collection of donations. These donations will be made against receipts and in accordance with accountancy procedures.

The higher popular committee also stressed the need to ask popular organizations and trade unions in Syria to define the means and formulas for achieving this important task, and to launch a campaign for the organization of activities during the week of support. The higher political committee also appealed to the Syrian citizens abroad to carry out their duty and express solidarity with the Arab people in southern Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Shamir: No USSR Link to Talks Despite Relations
TA200909 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] The prime minister has said he would object to the participation of the Soviet Union in Middle East peace talks even if Moscow resumes diplomatic relations with Israel, because Soviet involvement in the negotiations would put Israel in an impossible position in face of extremist Arab demands. Mr Shamir made these remarks in an interview with an AP correspondent in Washington. The prime minister today concludes the official part of his visit to the United States and will be leaving for the West Coast where he will meet Israeli emigres, among others.

Herut Criticizes Peres' 'Wild Attacks' on Shamir
TA200728 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] The Herut Movement has fiercely lashed out against Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister. A communique issued by the Herut spokesman states that Peres' wild attacks during Prime Minister Shamir's trip to the United States once again show Peres favors subversive actions for personal and party gain over the good of his own country. In a meeting of the Labor Party Central Committee last night, Peres said those who say no to an international conference are killing the peace process. Knesset Member Ehud Olmert of the Likud reacted to this statement by saying those who argue that saying no to an international conference is killing peace perhaps intend to kill the national unity government. In Olmert's opinion, state considerations demand one should at least wait for the prime minister to come home before attacking him.

Levi: 'No Room for Contemplating Elections'
TA191240 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister David Levi has said the Likud does not want to disband the government due to the argument over the international conference. Since the issue has not yet been placed on the cabinet's agenda and no decision has yet been made, there is no room for contemplating elections. Nevertheless, Levi emphasized he, like his colleagues in the Likud, objects to such a conference and considers it a threat to Israel. Minister Levi was speaking to our correspondent Gabi Zohar at the site of Jethro's Tomb, to which he was invited as a guest of the Druze community.

Weinberger: Aid To End if Lavi Project Proceeds
TA201015 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 20 Feb 87 p 3

[Report by Washington-based correspondents Pe'er-Li Shahar, Alex Fishman, and Ilan Kfir]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The U.S. Administration might confront Israel with a very serious dilemma on the issue of the Lavi; namely, if we insist on going ahead with the production of the Lavi it will have to be done without U.S. aid. U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger explicitly placed this dilemma before Israel in his remarks before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, in which he came out against the continuation of the project and argued Israel would be making a serious mistake if it decided to go ahead with the project and reject the alternatives. Weinberger described the Lavi as an outdated and costly aircraft, compared with the planes the United States is offering Israel.

This is the first time a U.S. Cabinet member has warned Israel it would be contravening the Administration's recommendation if it decided to go ahead with the project and the United States would not agree to continue to finance it. The United States has financed the development of the Lavi to date. According to Israel's assessment, U.S. funds should also cover a significant part of the cost of producing the Lavi.

Weinberger's remarks were greeted with astonishment in Israel. Senior political sources described them as a slap in the prime minister's face in the middle of his visit, an unprecedented event in relations between the two countries. The sources expressed their assessment that Weinberger's remarks reflect the position of the Administration and Israel is not very likely to ask Secretary of State Shultz and President Reagan to intercede to change the defense secretary's position.

Weinberger's remarks may have a large effect on the cabinet's decision on Lavi's future. Without U.S. aid chances are dim Israel can go ahead with the project on its own.

Senior officials in the defense establishment pointed out contrary to the facts delivered by Weinberger, their own data accumulated so far indicates the Lavi has significant economic advantages over the U.S. alternative, the F-16. [passage omitted]

Nimrodi Interviewed on Details of Iran Deals
TA181426 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (LESHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 30 Jan, 13 Feb 87 pp 6, 7

["Part One" of "talks" with Israeli arms dealer Ya'aqov Nimrodi by Yesha'yahu Ben-Porat, in Nimrodi's "White House" in Savyon "recently"]

[Excerpts] [Ben-Porat] After all that has been published and said, in your name too, is the Iran affair still on your mind, disturbing your peace?

[Nimrodi] And how! This business was built over a whole year. We worked night and day. It was the climax of important covert operations, not publicly known to this day, which we conducted with the assistance of the famous Adnan Khashoggi, among others.

[Ben-Porat] We will come to Khashoggi. What disturbs you so much that you cannot leave the affair behind?

[Nimrodi] The thing that disturbs me and gives me no rest is all this effort was for nothing. The American people do not under-

stand their President did a great thing, took a risk and saved a human life. Moreover, those who were removed from the operation were its initiators, Al Schwimmer, Daivd Kimche, and myself. All our achievements were wasted. That is what hurts.

[Ben-Porat] Do you feel you have been misjudged in Israel, and not only by the media?

[Nimrodi] Since I began responding to the media, the situation has changed. [passage omitted]

[Ben-Porat] Let us tackle the affair that so disturbs you. How, where, when, and why did it start?

[Nimrodi] It is true the affair began, as you published some time ago in David Kimche's name, with the visit U.S. emissary Mike Ledeen paid to then Prime Minister Shim'on Peres. But before we go into the ins and outs of the affair, I want you to know: At the time of the shah, between 1970 and 1979, I was involved in the sale of desalination plants and military equipment in Iran, and mediated between Iran and foreign companies in Europe. After the toppling of the shah I was not involved in arms deals, but in one thing only: special missions throughout the world. I have assisted the establishments from which I grew. Ask the defense ministers. I was never at their service to receive prizes. Since the fall of the shah and until this present affair I did not make any arms deals with Iran or with other countries because I did not want to, there was no room for it, and I did not believe I should.

[Ben-Porat] But you maintained contacts with your friends from Iran?

[Nimrodi] One of the reasons I reside in London is to maintain these contacts. My next-door neighbor on the left is the former Iranian chief of staff; on the right lives the former foreign minister; and in the entire building there are 15 Iranian families. I am the address for the Iranians. [passage omitted]

[Ben-Porat] Let us return to Mike Ledeen's mission. Did you or Al Schwimmer or a third element, I mean Israeli, initiate the U.S. move?

[Nimrodi] No. We did not initiate. It is true that 3 years after the 1981 Khomeyni revolution, I appeared on the British "Panorama" program. I claimed the West had forgotten Iran and said the time had come to do something. I suggested if the West wanted to return Iran to its fold, it would be necessary to create a revolution there. No one listened or paid attention. Today the Russians are endeavoring and succeeding in gaining influence there. [passage omitted]

[Ben-Porat] What happened in 1985, after the Peres-Ledeen discussion?

[Nimrodi] Even before then Al and I heard from Adnan Khashoggi about a very important Iranian who had greatly helped King Fahd of Saudi Arabia. He supplied the Saudis with important intelligence that contributed to maintaining peace and preventing terrorism at Ka'ba, their holy place in Mecca to which masses of Muslim pilgrims come from the world over. This man was Ghorbanifar, who proved to the king he was capable of ensuring peace in a place that is the apple of the Saudi eye. Fahd and those around him benefited from Ghorbanifar very much, via Khashoggi, of course. This Ghorbanifar, although he is considered a liar and a cheat, proved he was trustworthy and capable of delivering the goods.

[Ben-Porat] When did you learn all this?

[Nimrodi] At the end of 1984. At that time I only heard about Ghorbanifar but had not yet met him. Khashoggi, who is involved in big business but dreams of embracing international political moves, said to me: Who will return Iran to the West? Who will take up Iran's rehabilitation, a business of $200 billion? Only the West. And I, Khashoggi, want to be the one to put Iran back on its feet after the war with Iraq comes to an end.

[Ben-Porat] Was this his, Fahd's, or the Americans' idea?

[Nimrodi] I do not know. He spoke of it more than once. One day we were summoned to him in London, and he said to us — incidentally, he said this to the Egyptians, too: Dear friends, the time has come to do something to strengthen the moderates — I call them the pragmatists — in Iran. I have a hint, he said, from Fahd,as well, that something must be done.

[Ben-Porat] Did he give you names?

[Nimrodi] Not at that stage. He said there was a group he knew, that was desirable we meet, and Ghorbanifar had told Fahd it was necessary to equip Iran with arms by means of this group. On that occasion Khashoggi did not speak of American arms. We said to him: We will look into it. I must admit I was enthusiastic about the idea, but asked him: What will Israel gain from it? Khashoggi said: You want to return Iran to its former position. Apart from that, you want exports, do you not? Then this is good for the Jews. Fahd supports the idea as well, he said.

[Ben-Porat] This was a meeting in London among Al Schwimmer, you, and Khashoggi. Are there minutes?

[Nimrodi] There are from the next meetings.

[Ben-Porat] Did you believe Khashoggi?

[Nimrodi] With a pinch of salt. We returned to Israel and reported to then Prime Minister Shim'on Peres. [passage omitted]

[Ben-Porat] So Peres knew of the possibility of cooperation with moderates in Iran before Mike Ledeen visited him in the spring of 1985?

[Nimrodi] I do not know, although it is possible Peres discussed this with President Reagan when he was in the United States. We do not know. But I believe tere was something. Maybe a hint. Why? Because copies of the documents sent by Khashoggi to King Fahd, pertaining to the possibility of returning Iran to the West, placed here before you, were also delivered to Reagan, to Mubarak, and probably to Husayn as well, before Ledeen came to Jerusalem. Fascinating documents you must read. Something else!

[Ben-Porat] Back to the story. What did you tell Peres?

[Nimrodi] We told him Khashoggi wanted arms for Iran — only Israeli-made arms.

[Ben-Porat] Did you tell Peres this was supported by Fahd?

[Nimrodi] Yes. We told him. Peres replied: Let me think, and he did not give an answer on the spot. He only commented: Perhaps we can sell them food instead of arms? We spoke of the arms industry crying out for exports. Peres knew that better than us. At the time of the shah we exported goods to Iran, from shoelaces to cannons, for half a billion dollars per year. Do you know how much we need that today? As the United States needs the $22 billion in exports to Iran, England the $3 billion in exports, Germany a similar sum, and Switzerland the $2 billion.

[Ben-Porat] Then, in the spring of 1985, as if from Heaven, Ledeen arrives in Jerusalem and asks us to do the United States a favor to save their hostages?

[Nimrodi] I do not know whether they spoke of hostages. Ledeen, as far as I know, came more than once. The prime minister repeatedly tried to persuade us to offer the Iranians food, not arms. And we tried. For this purpose I met Ghorbanifar for the first time, because it was obvious to me they truly did need food, from wheat and barley to sugar and rice, meat, poultry, vegetables, and eggs — things we supplied them in the past.

[Ben-Porat] Where did you meet, and what was his reply?

[Nimrodi] In his room at the Geneva Hilton. I admit I was greatly impressed by him, especially by his direct contact with the Iranian prime minister. He was a wise, witty, and very shrewd man.

[Ben-Porat] How did he introduce himself?

[Nimrodi] As an arms dealer as well, but primarily as the commander of the Iranian secret services in Europe. That was the truth as well as a lie. However, he really does have direct contact with the prime minister in Tehran. His answer was: Food will come at the second stage. Now we need mortars, cannon, and shells. He presented me with a very long and detailed list — procurement for the total of $50 million. I returned to Israel. I imagined Peres would say no, and indeed he did. I was disappointed. My opinion was we were missing a golden opportunity to return Iran to us. In my opinion, we should have started it ourselves, without the Americans. [passage omitted]

[Ben-Porat] They wanted arms, and the prime minister was prepared to sell only food. What next?

[Nimrodi] I said to Al Schwimmer: Let us bring Ghorbanifar to Israel. It took 2 weeks. Al went to Peres, and Peres considered it for a long time. Meanwhile, Ledeen came to Jerusalem, without our knowledge and not on our initiative.

[Ben-Porat] This coincidence of Ledeen's arrival at the very time Ghorbanifar was appealing to us is strange, to say the least?

[Nimrodi] It truly was a coincidence, although it is possible his visit was connected with the information conveyed from Khashoggi via Fahd to the Americans. Ledeen is a sharp fellow and has been seeking contacts with Iran. It is possible he came of his own accord, although I believe McFarlane sent him. In any event, we got the green light, and Ghorbanifar, who arrived on a Greek passport, stayed here in my home. He stayed for a week or 10 days. Someone, whose name I do not want to mention, claimed Ghorbanifar was not the Iranian deputy premier, as though I had presented him as such. I only said he was close to the prime minister, and that is the truth. [passage omitted]

[Ben-Porat] After his visit here, were you told to stop contacts with him?

[Nimrodi] On the contrary. We were told: Work with him. He brought a list with him that included American arms. We told him Israel was not allowed to sell American arms, and we wanted to sell Israeli arms. It was agreed the ship that delivered the arms would return with a Russian T-72 tank, and not pistachios, as published in the press. Please read this document which I sent at the time to the prime minister: "The profits are dedicated to encouraging Iranian elements, ayatollahs and military people, who are acting to return their country to the West". That was the agreement. In all these matters we did not receive a cent from the government! The objective was as it says here: opening channels to the Iran of today, without any governmental element taking part in the matter, with foreign elements such as Adnan Khashoggi financing the deals for exporting Israeli arms. It says so here in black and white.

[Ben-Porat] Was this move approved by the prime minister after Ledeen's visit to Jerusalem?

[Nimrodi] It was approved by him, with or without any connection with Ledeen. In my opinion, the release of the hostages came as an afterthought to this move, which incidentally was made despite the objections of the Defense Ministry and other elements, and you can guess who they are. In any event, from the start everything was established on a personal basis, with the government having no hand in it. You can imagine the difficulties placed in our way by the elements I hinted at, partly out of envy that we — Al and Kimche, and I — were capable of doing this on our own. I want to tell you if it were not for Shim'on Peres, the operation would have failed.

[Ben-Porat] The first operation started during April-May 1985?

[Nimrodi] The Defense Ministry made me sign a promise to shoulder all the responsibility, including possible damages that might occur to every item — an irrevocable promise. Please read: Transport fees, port fees, etc. This included the cost entailed in the cancellation of the "Cosmos" operation, as it was called, for any reason. A ship was ordered, and the goods were put in warehouses. Ghorbanifar proved to me he had the money: guarantees totaling $100 million at Ghorbanifar's disposal in Switzerland. Before I even made a move it already cost me $400,000 out of my own pocket. Then, several days before his departure, Ghorbanfiar told me they did not want Israeli equipment but rather U.S. TOW missiles, because this was what they needed for the war. He said we should postpone this ship-

ment for awhile. He added in exchange the Americans would receive the hostage Buckley, the CIA official kidnapped in Beirut. He noted Tehran had agreed. Please note this: Ghorbanifar was the first to speak about the release of the hostages, not Peres or the Americans. I told Ghorbanifar I doubted his ability to release a hostage who was in Beirut. He smiled and said: You will see.

[Pen-Porat] You returned the ship to its owners?

[Nimrodi] I paid the owners $200,000 and the weapons remained, for the time being, in the warehouses. However, I paid a $200,000 down payment to the Defense Ministry. Had the ship departed I would have had to pay the entire sum, $50 million, to the Defense Ministry. At that point we went to the prime minister to speak about the famous shipment of the 500 TOW missiles.

[Ben-Porat] Did he agree?

[Nimrodi] Not immediately. He wanted time to think, and I say this in his praise. He acted cautiously and wisely. After all, those were American weapons, and we needed their agreement. In the meantime we had a very important meeting in Hamburg with officials from the Iranian establishment.

[Ben-Porat] We come to the meeting in Hamburg on 9 July 1985, attended by Schwimmer, Kimche, and you from the Israeli side, Mike Ledeen from the United States, and Khashoggi, Ghorbanifar, and three important Iranians, including Khomeyni's right-hand man, who arrived from Tehran.

[Nimrodi] You have read the minutes of this meeting, which went on for 3 hours.

[Ben-Porat] I have read them and will give a brief summary here: The Iranians aspired to return their country to the fold of the West, spoke of the forces they were prepared to place at the service of the mission, pointed to the fact that communist elements had been planted in the Khomeyni establishment by the Soviet Union, and promised to deliver a document shortly detailing the pro-Western personages and organizations in Iran.

[Nimrodi] This document was indeed delivered to me in less than 2 weeks.

[Ben-Porat] What happened after Hamburg?

[Nimrodi] We managed to convince Prime Minister Peres these Iranians were serious. Khashoggi was sure they would deliver the goods. Try, he said: what's 500 TOW missiles? We were to purchase them from the Defense Ministry for $3 million; each TOW at $6,000, and receive $5 million in payment, with the difference intended to support the moderates in Iran. But Defense Minister Rabin asserted not one TOW missile would be moved without the approval of the U.S. President. With Yitzhaq Shamir's knowledge, Dave Kimche was then sent to Washington. He sent him for that alone. Indeed, McFarlane told Kimche he had received the President's approval 2 hours after Reagan, who was in the hospital at the time, emerged from an operation. McFarlane also gave his assurances the 500 missiles would be returned to us within 2 to 3 months.

[Ben-Porat] Was Rabin satisfied?

[Nimrodi] He was satisfied, despite the fact that, contrary to his demand, he did not receive written approval. But there was another problem: On no account were the Iranians prepared to transfer the payment of $5 million in advance, and because I could not personally vouch for such a sum, I demanded Khashoggi give the first million, and I pledged to ship the first 100 TOW's. That is what happened.

[Ben-Porat] How were the missiles shipped?

[Nimrodi] This is a story from *The Arabian Nights*. A plane chartered by Schwimmer, which departed from Europe with non-Israeli pilots, landed in Lod, where we discovered it was a wreck. We were unable to obtain a better plane because not all the institutions that could have assisted us did so — for reasons known to themselves. We ordered another plane, Schwimmer determined the course for the pilots, and on 20 August 1985 the first 96 TOW missiles were shipped. Ghorbanifar, who was in Israel, accompanied the first shipment.

[Ben-Porat] Who waited for the plane in Iran?

[Nimrodi] The chairman of the parliament, Rafsanjani, and the prime minister. Then suddenly the commander of the special forces, the Pasdaran, from whom they wanted to conceal the existence of the deal, arrived and decided to take the missiles directly to the front. Ghorbanifar repaid Khashoggi the $1 million he had given me, and from that I deducted the expenses I had incurred for the plane, the ship, and so on, totaling $.5 million. Just imagine, for the erasure of IDF markings on the missiles the Defense Ministry charged us $200,000!

[Ben-Porat] A month later the second and last shipment went out.

[Nimrodi] On 24 September 1985, with 408 missiles. Thus we supplied a total of 504 antitank missiles. But we changed the route. Therefore, the second landing was not in Tehran but in Tabriz. Khashoggi, with no further ado, transferred $4 million to me, and Ghorbanifar transferred Iranian funds to him. The Iranians also fulfilled their obligation and released the hostage, Reverend Wier. It was only at this stage Ledeen surprised me by saying it was known in Washington Buckley, the CIA man, had been executed a long time before.

[Ben-Porat] Now comes the story of the Hawk missiles?

[Nimrodi] Ghorbanifar and Khashoggi said: Now do you believe we are dealing with serious people in Tehran, those who pull the strings there? There was then another meeting with the Karrubi brothers, one a minister for matters pertaining to men killed in the war, and the other Khomeyni's right-hand man, and with Ledeen. The two gave their pledge in writing, according to a detailed program, to release five American hostages in return for 100 Hawk missiles, although initially they demanded 600 missiles. During all the discussions reference was made to the improved Hawk missiles. This time their trust in me was so great the Iranians agreed to pay everything in advance; $18 million was transferred into my account by an Iranian company, and I

transferred part of the money to the Defense Ministry's account in Geneva. From there it was transferred to Israel.

[Ben-Porat] Then the mishaps began.

[Nimrodi] First of all, I was required to transfer $1 million to an American account in the name of Lake Resources in Switzerland. Schwimmer was told North needed the money to charter the planes from Portugal to Tehran. While I sat in Geneva with the Iranians, waiting for the operation to take place, my assistant, Yehuda, informed me from Israel he had heard a discussion between Hayim Karmon, deputy director general of the Defense Ministry, and another person, and they intended to send old Hawks and not the improved one. Yehuda was shocked and reported to Schwimmer, who exploded: Don't you dare! That will destroy the whole business! So they said: It will be all right.

The following day I was at the Geneva Hilton with the Iranian deputy premier and three other Iranians guarding me from the next room — do not forget they had already paid an enormous amount — and this was on the day Gorbachev arrived in Geneva to meet with Reagan, 21 November 1985. I was informed Schwimmer had recruited a plane. The plane departed loaded with 80 Hawks, but midway the pilot was refused permission to land in Portugal. The "great" North had not managed to arrange it! What could we do? We returned the plane to Israel on the last of its fuel.

[Ben-Porat] What did you say to the Iranians guarding you?

[Nimrodi] That there had been a technical failure. What could I say? Then Schwimmer chartered a small plane from the Santa Lucia company, with two German pilots, which could carry only 20 Hawks at a time — in fact, as it happened, only 18. I also had to explain that to the Iranians. The telephone calls — do not ask — Israel-Geneva-Tehran. Finally it was agreed after each shipment the Iranians would release one hostage. U.S. pressure was then very strong. This was a short time before Christmas, and the President wanted to give the American people a present: all the hostages. The Americans also promised the Iranians: After the release of the four, you will get what you want.

[Ben-Porat] Then the big mishap occurred.

[Nimrodi] The plane landed. The first crate was opened. The phone rang in Geneva. The Iranian prime minister was on the line and said angrily: We have not received improved Hawks, but the oldest Hawks, which Iran has in abundance. I could not believe my ears. I asked them to re-examine the shipment. They re-examined and called, saying: They are the oldest possible.

[Ben-Porat] A terrible blunder?

[Nimrodi] Blunder? A tragedy! A loss of credibility! We came to all this because of stupidity, because the Iranians were convinced we had tried to deceive them. I spoke with Prime Minister Musavi, and meanwhile the Iranian deputy premier, who was in the room and heard the prime minister threatening to arrest the pilots and confiscate the Hawks, collapsed, and an ambulance had to be called to take him to the hospital. Ghorbanifar burst into tears and claimed his parents would be killed, and shouted: "You are cheats, you are thieves!" Do you get the picture?

[Ben-Porat] How did you get out of it?

[Nimrodi] First of all, I was also shocked. I promised the prime minister I would return the money, including the payment for the Hawks in his possession, on the following day. I begged him to release the plane and the pilots. He only said: Do not even think of leaving Geneva without returning the money. We told him his deputy had fainted. He responded with one word: "Bejahanam"; let him go to hell. It was a terrible night, and Ghorbanifar did not stop crying over the fate of his parents.

[Ben-Porat] The pilots were released and the plane returned, without the 18 missiles, which remained there. Did you give the money back to the Iranians?

[Nimrodi] I returned all the money sent from Israel after numerous difficulties raised by the Defense Ministry, despite the fact it was they who caused this tragedy. I had transferred $11.2 million to Israel for 80 Hawks and $1 million, as I mentioned, to North's account. But only $8.17 million was returned to me from Israel because the 18 Hawks had not been returned. You will not believe this, but they deducted $510,000 from the sum for what they called "services rendered!" The following day I went to the bank with Ghorbanifar and the three bodyguards, and repaid the total minus the price of the 18 Hawks. Then I was free. Until that moment I had been under a kind of detention, a situation I have never beforeexperienced, and I have experienced many difficult moments in my life.

[Ben-Porat] Was your life in danger?

[Nimrodi] In my opinion, yes.

[Ben-Porat] What did Peres say after all this happened?

[Nimrodi] He was distressed, over us and over the Defense Ministry. He said to Schwimmer: Let us put a stop to it. Meanwhile, Ghorbanifar urgently summoned me to London and offered a solution: They now wanted 1,000 TOW's for each of the four hostages. I went to Peres with Schwimmer and asked to save our honor by giving them 4,000 TOW's, but because the Americans had not yet returned the first 500 to us, it was not feasible. The Defense Ministry said: No. That's it. Peres said to me: Ya'aqov, it will not work. Forget it.

[Ben-Porat] With that was the whole affair over?

[Nimrodi] There was another meeting with the Iranians at my home in London on 8 December. Two senior officials were sent from Israel. McFarlane, North, and General Secord, who was sent by the President, came from the United States. Our side included Al, David, my assistant Yehuda, and myself.

[Ben-Porat] Did McFarlane say he had come with the President's knowledge?

[Nimrodi] Explicitly. He said he had received the President's approval in the presence of Shultz, Weinberger, and the head of

the CIA. In the course of the discussion McFarlane demanded the release of the hostages, and promised the Iranians whatever they wanted — arms, maintenance on tanks, and training. A presidential promise from McFarlane's mouth! He spoke most of the time, and we kept quiet. Finally, Ghorbanifar again proposed reverting to the deal of 4,000 TOW missiles in return for the hostages. He also spoke with deep regret about the affair of the Hawks.

[Ben-Porat] McFarlane rejected Ghorbanifar's proposal, and with that the affair was closed. Did any money disappear at this stage?

[Nimrodi] Not one cent.

[Ben-Porat] Is it possible Ghorbanifar received more than the $5 million from the Iranians, which was transferred to you, for the 500 TOW's?

[Nimrodi] Possibly. I have no idea.

[Ben-Porat] Up to this point, did you personally make a profit or did you lose money on this deal?

[Nimrodi] I have only recently collated all the bills and discovered I lost some $8,000. At an earlier stage I presented a balanced account to the prime minister. It now transpires I lost money.

[Ben-Porat] What happened after the discussion in London?

[Nimrodi] I felt as though I was in limbo, as though my whole world had crumbled around me. Schwimmer felt the same. I believe, faced with the Pollard affair, Peres also felt very bad and wanted to do something for the Americans. Then one day Schwimmer informed me the prime minister had spoken to him about 'Amiram Nir, who would assist us in solving the problem of the 4,000 TOW missiles. According to Peres, Nir had a suggestion on the matter, concerning technical assistance. On 30 December, Nir arrived in London and told me Peres was sending him to meet with the U.S. President, and he needed all the necessary information. I received him with open arms. According to him, he was joining this business following reports that 'Arafat was trying to obtain the release of the American hostages. I invited Ghorbanifar, and we innocently told Nir everything he wanted to know, giving him documents, recordings, and methods of operation.

[Ben-Porat] So where did things go wrong between you?

[Nimrodi] That is a long story. Who are The Moderates in Iran? [subhead]

Following are excerpts from a secret document passed on to Nimrodi by the Ayatollah Karrubi, a minister in the Iranian Government. The document was authored in Qom, Khomeyni's place of residence. Karrubi is considered Khomeyni's right-hand man. It is dated 16 July 1985:

"If our friends in the West do not demonstrate their support, do not see to organizing the forces who identify with our position, and do not comply with our demands...then after the death of Khomeyni, Iran's fate will be one of the following: either Iran will become another Lebanon of greater and more dangerous dimensions; or within a few months or 2 years at the most, Iran will become one of communist Russia's followers....Therefore, harmony has to be established, based on consolidating and organizing the patriotic pro-West volunteers, who are serving within the Iranian regime...."

A detailed list of organizations defined as "moderate" was added to the document.

"The religious seminaries (the 'yeshivas') in Qom...the teachers association in Qom...the council guarding the Islamic sites...the Islamic Revolution Organization (Mujahadin)...the Islamic coalition association...the Tehran bazaar association...the Mobilization Organization...the Islamic Revolution Committees...the ground forces...the police, and the Islamic Republic Gendarmerie..."

The author of the document went on to promise that within a month he would convey to the Americans a detailed plan of action, as well as a list of the "technical means" required by the "moderates" to execute the plan. A list of 80 to 100 names of pro-West "moderates" was also attached to the document, with the comment: "Please burn this list after studying it."

[Ben-Porat] Ya'aqov Nimrodi, this sounds like a conspiracy for a revolution.

[Nimrodi] Why a conspiracy? The author of the document is not someone from an underground organization; he is Khomeyni's right-hand man.

[Ben-Porat] What guarantee was there that this is serious?

[Nimrodi] There was no guarantee. What kind of guarantee can you get in matters not commercial? I personally delivered the document to the Americans. In my view this was a cry for help.

[Ben-Porat] What came of all this?

[Nimrodi] A serious and detailed American plan for action in Iran came out of it. But when our operation was terminated, this plan was not implemented.

[Ben-Porat] How and why did your relations with Nir deteriorate?

[Nimrodi] From the moment 'Amiram Nir departed for meetings in Washington without taking Schwimmer with him, and he did not give us a report on his discussions afterwards.

[Ben-Porat] Perhaps he did not have to give you a report, and perhaps he was instructed not to report? In any event, what was your conclusion at that moment?

[Nimrodi] Someone had made "arrangements" with Ghorbanifar without our knowledge. We heard this from Mike Ledeen, who claimed they had been informed Schwimmer, Kimche, and I were unnecessary and 'Amiram Nir had been appointed as liaison officer.

[Ben-Porat] I can understand you were offended. But from the national point of view, what did we lose by the prime minister saying to you: Stay out of this, and by placing the matter in his adviser's hands?

[Nimrodi] Excuse me, the prime minister did not tell me to stay out of it. He only said his adviser had been appointed to assist us.

[Ben-Porat] Then perhaps your complaints should be directed at Peres and not at the adviser? After all, it is the prime minister's prerogative and duty to appoint whomever he wants.

[Nimrodi] Absolutely. His prerogative and his duty. But had the prime minister said: Clear the area for 'Amiram Nir and transfer the whole matter to him in an orderly manner, I would have accepted it.

[Ben-Porat] What in your opinion motivated Prime Minister Peres to replace the "founding" team, including Nimrodi and Schwimmer, with the counterterrorism adviser 'Amiram Nir?

[Nimrodi] Some say he did so at Defense Minister Rabin's recommendation, who did not hold a positive view of the involvement of private people in the matter. Perhaps he wanted everything to be dealt with by the hands of the state alone.

[Ben-Porat] So what is bad about that?

[Nimrodi] Look, professional people worked for a whole year with good results. In my opinion, we did not make mistakes. We sent a number of shipments in highly dangerous transport operations. AnAmerican hostage was released, Benjamin Wier. We acted among the Iranian moderates and laid wide-range foundations in Iran, to which McFarlane attributed importance of the highest degree. If not for the failure of the shipment of old Hawks, it is more than probable the remaining four hostages would have been released by Christmas 1985, as expected by Reagan and Peres. I could not understand what was happening, and asked David and Al: What have you heard? They said they had only heard what I heard: The Americans supposedly did not want Israelis involved in this story but wanted to act alone, and hence, our services were no longer needed. The Americans supposedly did not get along with Schwimmer; I was supposedly only a dealer; and David was supposedly finished because McFarlane resigned. In short, we were "out," and the Americans were "in." What no one told us was the Iran affair was continuing without our knowledge, and in various places; meetings were being held with our Iranian and American contacts in Frankfurt, in London, and in Washington.

[Ben-Porat] If you felt this way, why did you not approach the prime minister immediately?

[Nimrodi] Schwimmer approached him, and told me afterwards: Nonsense. Absolutely untrue. Peres told him: Sit quietly, and everything will be returned to its former condition. I want to remind you we were then at the height of our activities with the moderate leaders. The Americans threatened Ghorbanifar against making any contact with us, and 18 old Hawks were still sitting in the airport in Tehran, with a few million deposited in my account.

[Ben-Porat] According to your story, if someone was not fair with you, it was the prime minister.

[Nimrodi] Not true. I do not believe we were removed from the picture with the prime minister's knowledge.

[Ben-Porat] I have to assume a priori there is also a different version. For the present those in the public service are prevented from speaking. Does Prime Minister Peres know your version?

[Nimrodi] I told him everything during two meetings.

[Ben-Porat] What do you mean?

[Nimrodi] On 23 January 1986, Ghorbanifar called me and told me he was to meet on Saturday, the 25th of the month, with an Israeli personage, together with North and Gen Secord, and perhaps with McFarlane too. But you are out of the picture, said Ghorbanifar, who added: I did not betray you or Schwimmer, but I have been told I am not permitted to contact you. A number of days later he also sent me a letter of apology.

[Ben-Porat] How did you react?

[Nimrodi] I was amazed. I said to Schwimmer: Something has happened. I want to know if such a meeting is indeed being held without us. Schwimmer did not hesitate. He flew to London, where Peres was at the time, on a Saturday morning. He met with Peres and was told he knew nothing of the Ghorbanifar meeting. Schwimmer called me on Saturday night: There was no meeting. When Peres returns to Israel, he said, we will discuss the matter thoroughly.

[Ben-Porat] And then?

[Nimrodi] I called Ghorbanifar. He confirmed there had been a meeting with the participation of the prime minister's representative. Who is the representative? I asked. Someone with a beard who looks like me, said Ghorbanifar. It was the military secretary 'Azri'el Nevo. To prove he was indeed the prime minister's representative, an issue of *The Herald Tribune* was presented, which carried a photograph of Nevo with Peres. Ghorbanifar added he was under the impression Rabin was now dealing with the matter. Why?, I asked. Because during the meeting he heard the Israeli representative calling Israel from time to time and speaking to someone by the name Yitzhaq! And that, my friend, I had to hear from Ghorbanifar, who called my attention to the relations between the prime minister and the defense minister.

[Ben-Porat] Did you approach Nevo?

[Nimrodi] No. Schwimmer, Kimche, and I went to the prime minister, who summoned all those concerned with the matter. I repeated what I had heard from Ghorbanifar. I said very harsh things, which for understandable reasons I cannot elaborate here.

[Ben-Porat] How did the meeting end?

[Nimrodi] Peres summarized: I will inform the Americans as far as we are concerned the matter is over, and none of those present will again deal with the Iran affair.

[Ben-Porat] Did you calm down after that?

[Nimrodi] Partially. After the fact, a number of days later, I learned from a reliable source a representative of the prime minister did indeed participate in that meeting I mentioned before, which was held without our knowledge. However, in the opinion of this source, he was not there to officially represent the prime minister.

[Ben-Porat] How did you react?

[Nimrodi] I took it as it was. I understood the Iran issue had simply been taken out of our hands, and no one suffered from a bad conscience toward us over the matter.

[Ben-Porat] Another result was a break in relations between Schwimmer and Peres for approximately 6 months.

[Nimrodi] Schwimmer was very angry, but ask him about that. What you do not know is there was a break in some of the prime minister's other relations. It was apparently the defense minister who then came to the forefront.

[Ben-Porat] Why, in your opinion, did the famous flight to Tehran by McFarlane, 'Amiram Nir, and others cause the whole thing to explode?

[Nimrodi] That, in my opinion, was one of the tragic mistakes in the operation. They went there without sufficient preparation. How could an Israeli at that time go to Tehran? For what? Imagine what would have happened had the Iranians discovered an Israeli citizen was also part of the delegation. Had McFarlane and his partners understood a little of the Iranian-Shi'ite mentality, my assessment is the hostages would have already been released. The Iranians are suspicious and have great self-respect, and they like to go one step at a time. There is a Persian tale about a man who sees a Shi'ite drowning and says to him: Give me your hand and I will save you. The suspicious Shi'ite replies: I will drown, but I will not give you my hand. Had the stranger extended his hand to the Shi'ite and said: Take my hand, the Shi'ite would have agreed and been saved. That is the whole gospel in one sentence.

[Ben-Porat] To the best of my knowledge, you related the history of the operation in a document you sent to then Prime Minister Peres last July.

[Nimrodi] I will not publicly expose a document intended for the prime minister. But I want you to know all my reports to the senior political echelon relate nothing different from what I have told you in our talks.

[Ben-Porat] In light of what I have heard from you, I have the impression you did not receive an answer from the prime minister.

[Nimrodi] Permit me not to respond.

[Ben-Porat] An almost final question, which will not please you: Why do private businessmen need to deal with such matters at all, the very nature of which dictate they should be dealt with through state channels?

[Nimrodi] Countries determine policies. At times these policies are restricted and sensitive, due to the nature of relations with certain countries. This is where middlemen come into the picture. They have to have a military background and to take responsibility for their actions. The government leaves itself the option of shaking off responsibility in the event something goes wrong or complications develop. Just imagine for a moment how things would have looked today had the government not been involved. I have nothing more to add.

[Ben-Porat] One last question: Are there still questions regarding the funds in the deals and conflicting versions?

[Nimrodi] I repeat and stress I received no financial gains from the whole affair. I have nothing to hide in the matter, but because it is a sensitive subject, I do not see myself as authorized to publicly expose these things. The government has full details of the payments and transfers. It is the government that has to decide whether it has any interest in such an exposure.

'Serious Riot' Reported in Golan Druze Villages

TA201005 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] There is a serious riot in the Druze villages of Mas'adah and Majdal Shams on the Golan Heights. Our correspondent Gabi Zohar reports large police and border police units are rushing to the Golan Heights to restore order. The villagers attacked policemen who arrived in the village to make arrests.

LIBYA

JANA Accuses Weinberger of 'Lying' on Chad

LD201036 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0746 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] New York, 20 Feb (JANA) — Weinberger, the U.S. war secretary, has talked about the Great Jamahiriyah's active and effective role aimed at confronting the schemes hatched by the U.S. Administration and France and their flagrant military intervention in Chad.

Weinberger admitted before the Foreign Affairs Committee of the so-called Congress that the Great Jamahiriyah's revolutionary and progressive policy constitutes a danger to U.S. policies in Africa; he also admitted that the Administration of Israel's mad-dog interference in Chad is aimed at provoking Libya, whose revolutionary and progressive tide is ever growing in Africa.

U.S. War Secretary Weinberger pointed out the concerns of Israel's mad-dog Administration regarding an alleged aggression that Libya might mount against Chad, and alleged that U.S. and French imperialism and their hirelings are alarmed by such an aggression in the African Continent.

JANA's African affairs editor has commented on this: U.S. Secretary of War Weinberger has been assiduously misleading international public opinion as well as practicing lying and deception. The Administration of Israel's rabid dog and its hirelings have always been propagating such ideas to sneak in their colonialist aggressive policies aimed at transforming Chad into a U.S.-French colonial base used for threatening the security and stability of the African revolutionary and progressive forces that reject colonialist hegemony.

The editor stressed that the U.S. Administration and France were the first to threaten Chad's security and to transform its capital into a colony; the U.S. war secretary's assertion will not change the reality known to public opinion — the old crusading rancor against the African Continent. International public opinion is aware of the extent of the Israeli-American-French cooperation, which has been exposed by the media, to bring in mercenaries and train them to annihilate the Chadian tribes.

The African affairs editor pointed out that the threat to Chad's security in particular as well as to the African Continent in general is led by the imperialist United States together with colonialist France. However, Western and U.S. misleading propaganda will not deceive even children, as the whole world is aware of the flights that come from beyond the seas and the oceans to invade Chadian territories and occupy them militarily.

He added that playing with words will not conceal the truth of who is really threatening Africa's security and who yesterday brought France to its knees before the Israelis; who assassinated the African struggler President Samora Machel; who gave information and cooperated with the racist entity in South Africa; and who killed innocent women, children, and the elderly in Tripoli and Banghazi in the Great Jamahiriyah. The whole world is aware of who really threatens Africa's security as well as the security of the Arab homeland, and whose warships and aircraft carriers are sailing through Arab seas and oceans.

JANA's African affairs editor asserted: Judging by such an allegation, Weinberger undoubtedly is in death throes the same as his master, Israel's mad dog; the struggle between them now, as well as the exposure of their stances, have forced them to make utterances not even a newborn baby would believe.

The editor woundered how Weinberger, who is in the United States, could even talk about Africa? Between them are oceans, seas, and continents! Africa is for Africans; Africa has no alliance except with itself.

JANA Criticizes Ivorian President on Chad

LD200923 Tripoli JANA in English 0844 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Abidjan, Al Nowar 20, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — Felix Houphouet-Boigny the Ivory Coast president welcomed the French colonising of Chad. He described the statement of the French president, in which he confirmed this presence "as positive and clear".

Boigny also described himself, in a statement to the French news agency, as the dean of the African presidents and expressed his readiness to provide advice and consultation.

JANA's African affairs editor commented by saying:

It seems that the instruction and orders have arrived from the Elysee Palace to the regime of Ivory Coast to play its part in the chorus of those who repeat official French echoes represented in the policy of misleading and fact-hiding and facts distortion pursued by the rulers in the Elysee. By that Boigny asserts his capability for being an agent and that hirelings like Mobutu, Abdou Diouf and Bongo are not better than he is in their loyalty to Paris which started to send once more a coarse scent of the colonialist thanks to the policy Mitterrand and his aides currently pursue towards African nations.

"The controversy that calls for ridicule now is that Boigny and his alike seem to assert, by their disgraceful stances, that they are more French than the French themselves, for we know that large proportion of French do not agree with the policies of their rulers which aim at involving France once more in the burning sands of Africa and bring back the memories of the lines of coffins containing the bodies of their sons returning to Paris wrapped only by misery and great loss.

"What makes the thing extremely ridiculous is the strange title Boigny gives himself" the dean of the African presidents." The right and confirmed thing is that it was a slip of the tongue from this Boigny for he meant the dean of African puppets of Paris. But even in this context, he does not have competitors in the continent, maybe headed by Mobutu of Zaire, Bongo of Gabon, Abdou Diouf of Senegal and their follower Husni Mubarak. There are others we are not mentioning now but the Elysee instructions will reach them allowing them to speak. Only

remains facing the struggling African people is to know, and it is the best and always know, who are its enemies and who are the ones that are trying desperately to bring back the ugly colonialist to the African Continent. [sentence as received]

Whether this time it is French or wrapped in the American flag. [sentence as received] What remains to Africans is to seige those enemies, expose them and cause their downfall for good together with the dreams of their colonialists.

Iranian Reports on Statements by Official Denied

LD191504 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1428 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, 19 Feb (JANA) — The JANA correspondent in Tehran reports that Brother Sa'd Majbir did not make the statements attributed to him by the Iranian media. Brother Sa'd Majbir is not an official envoy sent to Iran. He was working at the Libyan Arab People's Bureau in Tehran and his presence there now is to bid farewell to his friends and to make final arrangements for his return after finishing his term of office in Iran.

MAURITANIA

Taya Receives Chadian Official 19 February

LD192235 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Excerpt] Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state, received Krouma Ahmed, Chadian secretary of state for foreign affairs, this morning.

The meeting was attended by Isselmou Ould Mohamed, the secretary of state in charge of literacy [name and post as heard].

After the meeting, Krouma Ahmed said his talks with the presidentcovered bilateral issues and he also informed the president on the development of the situation in Chad and some issues which are usually of interest to the fraternal and friendly states.

The Chadian envoy added that relations between Mauritania and Chad are excellent. Mrouma Ahmed concluded his statement by saying that Col Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya entrusted him with conveying greetings to his brother and friend, President Hissein Habre.

Krouma Ahmed, Chadian secretary of state for foreign affairs, left the capital this afternoon after a visit to our country. [passage omitted]

SUDAN

Trade Protocol With USSR Signed in Khartoum

JN191614 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1437 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Khartoum, 19 Feb (SUNA) — An approximately $100 million trade protocol between Sudan and the Soviet Union was signed at the Ministry of Trade, Cooperation, and Supply this morning. The protocol is valid for 3 years as of the date of signing and will be renewed annually.

According to the protocol, Sudan will export cotton, leather, sasame, peanuts, and gum arabic to the Soviet Union, which will export equipment, vehicles, machinery, and trucks. This will be within the range of $30 million for each side. The Soviet Union will also export to Sudan printing paper, including newsprint, iron, steel, medicines, pharmaceutical products, and chemicals.

Within the framework of the protocol, Sudan and the Soviet Union will sign agreements for equitable deals up to approximately $20 million for each side. This sum is increasable. Under these agreements, around 30,000 gas cylinders will be imported.

The protocol was signed for Sudan by 'Umar al-Mubarak Abu Zayd, under secretary of the Ministry of Trade, and for the Soviet side by Dr Burmistrov, USSR deputy minister of foreign trade.

The Trade Ministry under secretary delivered a speech affirming that the signing of the protocol is a great step in the normalization of relations between Sudan and the Soviet Union, which were frozen during the defunct May regime.

In his speech, the Soviet deputy minister of foreign trade expressed happiness at signing the agreement. He praised the spirit that prevailed during the negotiations and hoped for further promotion of bilateral relations in all fields.

The last agreement between the two sides was signed in 1970.

Al-Hindi: Ethiopia 'Has No Objection' to Talks

JN191228 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1024 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Khartoum, 19 Feb (SUNA) — Al-Sharif Zayn al-'Abidin al-Hindi, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has told *Al-Siyasah* that Ethiopia has said it has no objection to initiating a new Sudanese-Ethiopian dialogue. He asserted the method which used to be followed has recently changed and that there have been many signs which call for starting a dialogue.

Al-Sharif al-Hindi said he will meet with Ethiopian Foreign Minister Berhanu on the sidelines of the OAU foreign ministers conference in Addis Ababa on 22 February and will discuss Ethiopian support for John Garang as a major topic on the agenda of the conference. Al-Hindi hoped good results would be reached in this regard, stressing Sudan's refusal to link the southern issue to the Eritrean problem. The minister said that while Berhanu was visiting Cairo he said he did not object to beginning an Ethiopian-Sudanese dialogue.

Al-Hindi pointed out that the agreement of understanding on what is taking place on the Sudanese-Ethiopian border, which Sudan had propsoed to Ethiopia, was met with Ethiopian procrastination. Hence, the joint committee formed for this purpose failed to meet due to this procrastination which was accompanied by an Ethiopian attack against the Sudanese border, he added. The minister said Sudan has shown much patience, adding that

Sudan's complaint lodged with the OAU has so far received no reply. He asserted this complaint will be discussed at the OAU foreign ministers conference.

Al-Hindi asserted Sudan feels its stand is right and that Ethiopia will resort to reason and dialogue. Al-Hindi pointed out that a message from the Sudanese Embassy in Ethiopia affirmed that in a meeting between the Sudanese charge d'affaires in Addis Ababa and the Ethiopian deputy foreign minister, Ethiopia made known that it does not object to dialogue. Al-Hindi said the OAU foreign ministers conference will discuss the Chadian war and African-Arab relations, which Sudan has been entrusted to explain to the rest of the African countries in Addis Ababa. He added the Arab League secretary general arrived in Sudan for this purpose.

Prime Minister Al-Mahdi Meets Tanzanian Official
EA192124 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1000 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Khartoum: The deputy prime minister and minister of defense and national service, Ndugu Salim Ahmed Salim, has held talks with the Sudanese prime minister and minister of defense, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. Reports from Khartoum say the talks centered on the security situation in the Frontline States and the acts of aggression perpetrated by the South African regime against these states. The talks also dealt with the need to promote and to strengthen bilateral relations, particularly in the trade, economic, cultural and educational sectors.

Ndugu Salim is on a four-nation African visit. He has already been to Ethiopia. Ndugu Salim is also expected to visit Egypt and Algeria.

Fadlallah Burmah Appointed to Defense Ministry
JN191253 Khartoum SUNA in English 1030 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Khartoum Feb 19 (SUNA) — Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi issued a decree according to which Gen. Fadlallah Burmah was appointed state minister at the Ministry of Defence. It is to be recalled that Brumah was a member in the Transitional Military Council which was formed after the popular uprising in April 1985.

WESTERN SAHARA

SDAR Communique Reviews Operations in January
LD191920 Algiers APS in French 1200 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] SDAR, 19 Feb (APS) — The ALPS carried out 595 operations in January, attacking and harassing the fortifications erected along the Moroccan defense walls, a Saharan Information Ministry communique announced on Wednesday.

These operations, which took place at El-Mesmar, Grayer Lahdid, Graret el-Kercha, Rous Diret, Dhouheb, Lekraiba Nesla, and Fedret Elach [names as received], resulted in 100 monarchist soldiers being killed or injured, and four boats being burnt in the region of Dakhla, including two Portuguese and British tourist boats, the communique states.

DJIBOUTI

Egypt's Ghali Arrives With Mubarak Message

EA191048 Djibouti Domestic Service in Somali 1645 GMT 18 Feb 87

[Text] Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in the country last night. He is in Djibouti for a 2-day working visit. Ghali was welcomed by the Djibouti minister of foreign affairs and cooperation. The visit is viewed as a sign of improving relations between Egypt and Djibouti and follows the naming of the Egyptian ambassador to the Republic of Djibouti.

Speaking about his visit, the Egyptian minister said he first has to deliver a message to the Djibouti president from his Egyptian counterpart, and then he will hold talks with his Djibouti counterpart. He described bilateral relations as historic, adding that the two countries are both members of the OAU, the ICO, and the Nonaligned Movement, and that both countries are Arab countries.

Terms Talks 'Fruitful'

NC191629 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak sent a message today to Djibouti President Hassan Gouled. The message was delivered by Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs.

After a meeting with President Hassan Gouled, Dr Ghali said Egypt is seeking to promote cooperation with Djibouti in several areas. He noted his talks with the Djibouti president were fruitful.

The minister of state also met with the Djibouti prime minister and the minister of national education, youth, and sports. They discussed bilateral relations and ways of promoting them in various fields.

ETHIOPIA

Mengistu Holds Talks With PDRY Delegation

EA191104 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1800 GMT 18 Feb 87

[Text] Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, WPE Central Committee secretary general, PMAC chairman, and commander in chief of the revolutionary Armed Forces, held talks with a PDRY delegation, led by Comrade Salim Salih Muhammad, YSP Central Committee deputy secretary general. During the meeting, held this afternoon in the comrade secretary general's office at the Grand Palace, Comrade Salim Salih Muhammad noted that as a result of their tour of revolutionary Ethiopia the delegation now has a better understanding of development activities being carried out in all sectors of the country. For his part, our comrade revolutionary leader talked to the delegation about revolutionary Ethiopia's relations, cooperation, and exchange of experience with the PDRY.

Comrade Legese Asfaw, member and secretary of the WPE Central Committee, and Comrade Tesema Belay, member of the WPE Central Committee, revolutionary Ethiopia's ambassador to the PDRY, also attended the meeting.

Protocols Signed; Group Departs

EA200532 Addis Ababa in Amharic to Neighboring Countries 1600 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Protocols that will strengthen relations between the parties, governments, and peoples of revolutionary Ethiopia and the PDRY were signed today. The protocol on relations between the WPE and the YSP was signed by Comrade Ashagre Yigletu, member and secretary of the WPE Central Committee, and Comrade Ahmad Haydarah Masdus, alternate member of the YSP Politburo and administrator of the Lahj region. A protocol agreement between the two countries' Foreign Ministries was signed by Comrade Tibebu Bekele and Comrade Salih Muhsin, deputy ministers in their respective countries.

Comrade Legese Asfaw, member of the Politburo and secretary of the WPE Central Committee, and Comrade Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, attended the signing ceremony, held at the WPE Central Committee office. The protocols were signed today, at the end of a 4-day working visit by a PDRY delegation, led by Comrade Salim Salih Muhammad, to revolutionary Ethiopia.

The PDRY delegation led by Comrade Salim Salih Muhammad left for home this afternoon. Comrade Legese Asfaw, member of the Politburo and secretary of the WPE Central Committee, was at Bole International Airport to see off the delegation.

Tanzanian Defense Minister Departs 17 February

EA181043 Addis Ababa in Amharic to Neighboring Countries 1600 GMT 17 Feb 87

[Text] Comrade Salim Ahmed Salim, Tanzanian deputy prime minister and minister of defense, left Addis Ababa today after delivering a message to our comrade revolutionary leader from Comrade Ali Hassan Mwinyi.

Comrade Salim Ahmed Salim yesterday delivered the message from President Ali Hassan Mwinyi to Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, WPE Central Committee secretary general, PMAC chairman, and commander in chief of the revolutionary Armed Forces.

Comrade Salim Ahmed Salim was seen off at Bole International Airport by Comrade Lieutenant General Tesfaye Gebre Kidan, member of the WPE Central Committee Politburo and defense minister. Also present were WPE Central Committee members, Armed Forces commanders, and the Tanzanian ambassador to revolutionary Ethiopia.

Eritrean Radio Details Recent Fighting

EA191618 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Amharic 0530 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Enemy troops deployed from Barentu in (Akoshi) to (Haykota), in eastern Eritrea from (Foro) to (Kumile), and from (Foro) to (Kumile) have been humilated and repulsed by our heroic combatants. The enemy troops, deployed to (Haykota) on 11 February to commit evil deeds against the people, were ambushed by our peoples militia in (Koita) District. Three soldiers were killed. The enemy reconnaissance team, deployed from (Foro) to (Kumile), was attacked and repulsed by the EPLF combatants, leaving one enemy soldier killed and two wounded.

10 Soldiers Killed 12 Feb

EA191626 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 0430 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Akele Guzaya: Enemy troops of the Dergue have looted considerable property from (Serona). The enemy troops, deployed to (Serona) on 12 February, were attacked and repulsed by our heroes, causing the death of 10 soldiers. Revenge was taken later for this act and property worth 14,469 birr was looted from civilians in (Serona).

SOMALIA

SNM Chairman on Current Political Situation

EA191503 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1700 GMT 18 Feb 87

[Talk by Ahmed Muhammad Silanyo, Somalia National Movement [SNM] chairman; date, place not given — live or recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the most merciful, the most beneficient. Speaking on behalf of the SNM members and on behalf of the struggling Somali people, I would like to greet Somali people wherever they may be. I know and I am confident that Somali people oppose the sufferings they have long endured. After these greetings, I would like to deliver a short speech to the Somali people.

Brothers, we will not tell one another of the situation in our country. It is possible some people are not aware of many things, but generally people are not ignorant of the political, economic, and security situation of the country today. I have spoken on this issue many times before. Many other people and Radio Halgan have also commented on it. Today I would like to speak on a few factors of some of the issues.

First, the political situation. We know Siad Barre's physical and mental condition is not normal following his serious accident. Those who work with him and others in the administration know this very well. This has brought about internal strife and rivalry. Let us ask ourselves, in the recent so-called elections how did it become possible for Siad to be elected president for the next 7 years? How did it come about? Is it acceptable? Does it make sense?

As Somali people know and as the whole world knows, the Somali people are struggling against this regime; even those who are not struggling do not like it. The rule today in Somalia is that of a person, a family, and a clan. A terrorist rule. While the age and health of Siad are known, he is nominated or has nominated himself as president for the next 7 years. It is said he was elected with a majority of more than 99.9 percent. Does this make sense? The answer is no. It is also said 4 to 5 million people voted. The Somali population is estimated at 5 million.

Even in places where proper elections take place, children, the elderly, and those not in the country do not vote. Half a million or more Somalis are not in the country. Most of them have fled from the present system. There are children, the sick, the elderly, and nomads. Therefore, it means all Somali people, including those born last night, old men, old women, nomads, those celebrating, and those sick voted. Such things are made jokes of all over the world. It is a very surprising matter. Let it be. The world already knew about this, and was even expecting him to say he was elected. [passage omitted]

During the so-called elections, fighting was going on in many parts of the country. Most of the people were engaged in the fight. For example, when Siad was claiming that he was elected by a 100 percent majority, there was fighting going on in the north. During this time the links between towns were cut. Towns, even streets in the same town, were closed off. At this time women were being stabbed. Hundreds were being arrested. During this drought period, the transportation that used to take water and food to the countryside was stopped. The towns and the countryside need one another. Many people in Hargeysa used their doors and windows frames as firewood. Young children were denied milk. [Passage indistinct] Much livestock was impounded from the people of the countryside as in Burco. Fortunately, the people fought and recovered them by force from the government Army. All the people agree with me. A few places in Mogadishu were bombed. [passage omitted]

God does not oppress people; people oppress themselves. You do not have to accept oppression. You know what happened in Sudan. You know what happened in Uganda. You know what happened in Haiti. You know what happened in the Philippines. Everywhere people overthrow dictators who harass the people. People throw off the yoke of oppression. At such time we say that when some people rise up the rest should lend a hand, support, and feel with them because they share the same name and honor. If there is a fight and you say, let those people die; let that region expire; and let those people perish, then you too will be finished in the end. Whenever anyone fights against oppression, a wrong, bad government, and bad system it is in the interests of the people. So we say that heavy fighting is taking place in many parts of the country, especially in the north. [passage omitted]

Even shaykhs have been taken away from mosques while conducting Friday prayers. Some were arrested and others were killed. They were told they cannot teach Islam without government permission. Their children were forbidden from studying the Koran. [passage omitted]

You know the power struggle going on in Mogadishu today. We understand it very well; the different groups are not willing to

listen to each other. On one side is [First Vice President] Samantar and his group. On another side is [Foreign Minister] Abdurahman Jama Barre and his group. On yet another side is [Deputy Defense Minister] Gani and his type. You all know this. The matter is one of succession and that is what we are fighting against. Why accept oppression when you are not used to it traditionally. [passage omitted] The youth should rise; the Army should rise and reject; religious people should reject; and businessmen should reject. [passage omitted]

Once we were told that when the party is formed, justice will prevail. After its formation, nothing changed; rather, it got worse. Once we were told that when the parliament is formed, things will improve. Nothing improved; the same clan, family, and person continued and worsened the peoples' living conditions. For example, there is no light or water in Mogadhishu today. [passage indistinct] The little food donated by foreign governments for their own interests is not produced by the people. The debt incurred by the Somali people has been invested in nonproductive projects for suppressing the Somali people to the tune of more than 2 billion [currency not specified]. Fifty percent of government expenditure comes from external sources. Will it be given to the Somali people? It will be spent on arms and not on the Somali people. The budget is even 100 percent from external sources. Things cannot continue like this. Where is that which was produced by the people? Where did it go?

It is spent on the Army, the elite force, the militia, and their kind. It goes to the four who have eaten the country. It goes on protecting the regime that is in power to suppress the people.

Recently it was said that a new government has been formed and that the system will be changed. Mohammed Ali Samantar was made prime minister, Kulmiye was made a vice premier, so and so was made a second vice premier, and every one of them is in the same position. What changed? Samantar was removed from the Ministry of Defense, and it is being prepared for the clan. It is being prepared for Barre's clan. Can Somalis have our word on this? It is known that the post of prime minister or vice president is not important. What is important is the Army. Let the clan have it.

You know Gani, who chased all over the world, was promoted to deputy defense minister. What does this mean? What is he being prepared for? What about the others? Are they for show? The trick is known and it is clear. Not even children can be deceived. It is for you to react.

I return to the struggling SNM on whose behalf I am speaking today and which has come out to free the people from this system and oppression. They are struggling and fighting. The regime does not disclose its casualties. Every day hundreds of thousands [as heard] die from it. People are brought from Baydoba, others from Kismaayo, others from further places, and others gathered from around. They are told their children are fighting for the country; they are told they are away on duty. They know they are dead. Do not be cheated. We tell you we will win. We will win. This did not come about easily. Men are martyred. May God rest the soul of those martyred in peace. Condolences to the bereaved. Continue with the struggle. Freedom and victory.

Radio Halgan Reports Government 'Power Struggle'

EA192147 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1700 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Reports from Mogadishu say a power struggle started among the administrators of the regime after dictator Barre left for treatment abroad this week. The power struggle is between a group considering seizing power and fighting for the succession and another group, led by General Muhammad 'Ali Samantar, who is not on good terms with the dictator these days.

This type of power struggle began after General Barre's car accident on 23 May 1986, when he was rushed to Riyadh Hospital in Saudi Arabia. It was renewed after many began to ask questions about the dictator's health. Many in Mogadishu say his trip abroad is due to the deterioration of his health. He has suffered from dangerous diseases and exhaustion before.

The reports say that at present Gen Samantar, who was recently removed from the Ministry of Defense, and his group have the upper hand.

'Hundreds' of Soldiers Killed in Burco Fighting

EA181213 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1700 GMT 17 Feb 87

[Text] Detailed reports reaching Radio Halgan say an attack launched [date not specified] by SNM fighters in Burco District resulted in heavy losses by the enemy forces. After SNM forces attacked Talabur and Balleh Dig, other SNM units also launched a major offensive on Buuhoodle, Durruqsi, (Goroyohun), Bissigh, and (Genyo Laye), during which the whole enemy reinforcement was annihilated. The enemy forces loyal to the regime led by Murderer Muhammad Siad Barre lost hundreds of soldiers. The enemy forces lost 15 tanks, 7 APC vehicles, 65 jeeps, and 19 troop carriers. The enemy forces also lost a very large quantity of military hardware.

TANZANIA

CPSU Official: CCM 'Tool' for 'Salvation'

EA191752 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1000 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Tanga: The head of the visiting CPSU delegation, Kochetkov, said his party and the Chama Cha Mapinduzi [CCM] will continue to fight against injustice, inequality, imperialism, and racism. Addressing CCM members at Ngamiani in Tanga town, Mr Kochetkov said the CCM, under the chairmanship of Mwalimu Nyerere, enjoys international respect for its unwavering stand on human rights. He called on Tanzanians to consolidate their party, describing it as a tool for their salvation and for faster progress.

Referring to socialism, the Soviet leader [as heard], who is also CPSU second secretary in the Armenian SSR, said this policy must triumph because it serves the interests of the majority. Kochetkov said the CPSU advocates international peace to

enable special groups, such as children, to enjoy life. Today the three-man delegation toured Coast Province.

UGANDA

Talks Open With Zaire on Border Security

EA200528 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] A consultative meeting in border problems has opened in Kasese between Ugandan and Zairean officials. The Ugandan delegation is led by the minister of state for internal affairs, Dr Kiiza Besigye, and the Zairean side by the administrator-general of the office of the president, Mr (Goga).

Speaking at the opening of the meeting, Dr Besigye stressed the need for good neighborliness in order to foster African development. He noted that the people of Zaire and Uganda are sisters and brothers and have a common destiny. He called for frank and open discussion in their deliberations. In reply, Mr (Goga) said peace, unity and security are a fundamental basis for African development and called on African states to maintain it.

During the meeting, the two sides will address themselves to the problems of immigration, smuggling and security on the common border. The meeting is being attended by district administrators and executive secretaries and regional and district police commanders from the Ugandan border districts of Arua, Nebbi, Hoima, Masindi, Kabarole, Bundibugyo, Kasese, Bushenyi, Rukungiri and Kabale.

Others taking part in the talks include officials from the Ministries of Regional Cooperation, Foreign Affairs and the Office of the President.

CAMEROON

Biya Said To Order Release of Journalists

AB191053 Paris AFP in French 1905 GMT 18 Feb 87

[Text] Yaounde, 18 Feb (AFP) — Cameroonian President Paul Biya has ordered the release of Zambou Zoleko, general manager of the Cameroon News and Publishing Corporation (Sopecam), and Jean Mboudou, director of the editorial services of the national daily newspaper *Cameroon Tribune*, it was learned from an informed source on Wednesday in the Cameroonian capital. Since 22 January this year, the two journalists had been affected by a renewable 2-month administrative confinement order after they were questioned a few days earlier along with the deputy chief-editor of the daily newspaper, Jean-Luc Kouamo. The latter was released after the first interrogation.

They were being blamed for publishing a presidential decree granting a permanent delegation of signature to Jean Nkuete, general secretary of the government, in the 13 January issue of the national newspaper. As part of an inquiry to find out who was responsible for what was described as a leak unprecedented in the country's history, these interrogations took place. Cameroonian President Paul Biya ordered the release of the journalists as the issue took on a political dimension, a Cameroonian official who asked not be named told the AFP. According to this source, those released can resume their duties.

CHAD

81 Libyans Killed 16-17 Feb; Fada, Zouar Bombed

AB191946 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] Libyan bombings continue in northern Chad. The town of Fada was heavily bombed yesterday at 2200 by the Libyan Air Force. The bombings continued this morning at Fada and Zouar.

In spite of these murderous bombings, however, our forces have been teaching the aggressive Libyan forces serious lessons. On 16 February 1987, the Libyan Army abandoned 67 corpses and a lot of destroyed military equipment on the battlefield. This was the result of the fighting in the Zouar region. The following day, a column of the Tripoli Army was literally reduced to pulp in an ambush by our valiant forces. Fourteen Libyans lost their lives in that clash [words indistinct] were abandonned on the battlefield.

It seems Al-Qadhdhafi has lost all his self-control in this war full of defeat [words indistinct], which has been making him act blindly and without perception. However, it is difficult to understand why the man in Tripoli stubbornly continues to send young Libyans to Chad as one would send cattle to the slaughterhouse to meet a certain death.

Bardai Radio Admits Setback; Cites Coup Attempt

AB191242 [Clandestine] Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1127 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] In light of the recent reports on the military situation in the northwest and northeast regions, one can draw the following lessons. Concerning the current fighting in the Zouar and Fada areas, there is the need to stress the importance of the road that links these two strategic localities and that was chosen by French-American-FAN traitors with the aim of achieving rapid control of all of the Borkou, Ennedi, and Tibesti regions. First, in a surprise attack in the Chad-Niger border area, the enemy was able to make some spectacular breakthroughs [percees]. However, we must mention the rapid retaliation of the National Liberation Army. Stopping the enemy offensive was a serious setback to the intentions of the Habre army, which is being defeated everywhere in its maneuvers. Now that the FAN aggressors are being located, surrounded, and besieged, the only thing awaiting them is the last stroke from the valiant ANL fighters.

The reconquest of the north, which is dear to the agent Hissein Habre, will be shortlived, and this is certain. Time is undoubtedly working against any FAN adventure in the north. Taking advantage of the defeat [words indistinct] of the Habre forces, the valiant ANL fighters can quietly, and without any serious resistance, push their counterattacks to the rear base area of the enemy. There is a proverb that says: He who goes out to hunt, loses his place. So, the patriotic forces must closely observe the attitude of the French occupanionist forces in view of the serious events happening south of the so-called 16th Parallel.

There is also a report from the other half of the southern part of the country that demonstrates the worsening of the political situation. According to our permanent correspondent, a coup was foiled in recent months in Ndjamena, while the leader of the FAN group was attending a conference at Malabo, Equatorial Guinea. Informed by CIA agents and officials of the Interior Ministry, the dictator then ordered the arrest of several political and military officials [passage indistinct]. Director of Protocol Hissein Ashaibo succeeded in fleeing to a neighboring country.

SENEGAL

Government Communique on Student Meeting

AB191000 Dakar Domestic Service in French
2000 GMT 18 Feb 87

[Government communique on students' meeting in Dakar held on 16 February — date of communique not given]

[Text] Over the weekend, certain social partners, in a final effort to save the academic year, contacted the government to get permission for the Dakar Students' Coordinating Committee to hold a general assembly to inform their colleagues of the deadlocked situation it is confronted with in (?its negotiations with the government). It also intended to seek another term of office.

In such a case the (?government) would have liked the Students' Coordinating Committee to give their colleagues all the information on the real reasons for the deadlock in the negotiations with the government. Right from the outset, the Students' Coordinating Committee made it known it had no intention of adding to the meeting's agenda the problem raised by the issue of prerequisites. It was, therefore, obvious it wanted to avoid discussing this issue so that no immediate agreement to settle the crisis could be reached.

In spite of these problems, and to show its open-mindedness and lack of prejudice, the government gave permission to hold a general assembly of the Students' Coordinating Committee on Monday, 16 February, with the following stipulations:

1. The general assembly should begin at 1200 and end at 1500; that is, between the end of the morning lectures and the beginning of afternoon lectures.

2. The government granted the Students' Coordinating Committee's request to hold four departmental general assemblies; that is, general assemblies at the level of each faculty, rather than one large assembly.

3. The government granted the Students' Coordinating Committee's request that the police be withdrawn from the campus while the various general assemblies were taking place. The government ordered the police forces to withdraw from the campus and gather near the university's Sanni Aman Fall auditorium before the meeting began.

4. The government granted the Students' Coordinating Committee's request that the departmental general assemblies continue after 1500 until 1900. It furthermore ordered the police force charged with controlling entry to the university campuses to vacate the area at 1845 to avoid any contact with the students when they finished the meeting.

5. The government granted the Students' Coordinating Committee's request for permission to post notices on the holding of departmental general assemblies.

6. The Students' Coordinating Committee requested that meals be served early enough to enable students to eat before attending the meetings, and the government gave instructions to the director of the Dakar University Catering and Welfare Service [COUD] to ensure that all meals were served by 1030.

7. The government hoped that the general assemblies would not be an occasion to stir up antigovernment propaganda, to provoke police, or to defy institutions of the Republic.

On the basis of the above, the departmental general assemblies convened on Monday, 16 February 1987. There is a lot to be said about the way in which they were manipulated and the discussions took place. It is not surprising that the results were negative. Not only did arrogant speakers shower direct insults on the government and certain social partners, but others took the opportunity to make open threats and to urge that they beat up students who, in exercising the legal the right to study, have freely decided to attend lectures and supervised practical work. The departmental general assemblies, instead of discussing conditions for serious negotiations with the government, on the contrary, called for another 48-hour strike. Obviously, as the agenda did not include the question of prerequisites, the very reason for the deadlock was purely and simply ignored.

Finally, to demonstrate conscientiousness, the Students' Coordinating Committee, in the face of the turn of events, was forced to acknowledge that the government's idea of the social partners was the only acceptable path. At the end of the departmental general assemblies, the Students' Coordinating Council made a report on the discussions. It made known to the government, through the social partners, its intention to continue negotiations initiated Thursday, 5 February, [words indistinct] and that it was ready to resume negotiations. [passage indistinct]

The government made it known that it could not resume negotiations under threat, blackmail, and dictates imposed as prerequisites. It remains firm on this issue and informed the Students' Coordinating Committee that it would only agree to meet with it on the condition that students first resume classes. This is a very legitimate condition, and this is the position of almost all governments. It is confident that the students [words indistinct], and they should consequently avoid anything that will worsen a difficult situation.

In short, what the Students' Coordinating Committee wants are negotiations that will only be binding when the conditions it has imposed on the government are fulfilled. This means negotiating without commitment while it makes the fulfillment of these conditions impossible. As for the government, it only wants the negotiations to be open, without any conditions on the COUD issue. If the Students' Coordinating Committee were to agree to this approach, the minister of national education was mandated by the government to receive the Students' Coordinating Committee on Tuesday, 17 February at 1530. As the Students' Coordinating Committee reaffirmed that there could be no negotiation without the fulfillment of these conditions, the appointment for the meeting was canceled. The proof has been made once again that it is the dogmatism and intransigence of the Dakar Students' Coordinating Committee that is fanning the current crisis. This attitude reveals the hidden intentions of a movement that our people in their clear-sightedness already have doubts about.

ANGOLA

MPLA Politburo Member on UNITA Situation

PA171933 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Feb 87

[Interview with (General Endavi), member of the Politburo of the Popular Liberation Movement of Angola-Party of Labor [MPLA-PT], "deputy defense minister," and FAPLA chief of staff, by Pedro Martinez Pirez; place and date not given — recorded]

[Text] [Pirez] Mr Endavi, I would like to know whether Jonas Savimbi's propaganda regarding the tribal issue is supported in Angola? Are any of the ethnic groups strongly linked to Savimbi's forces?

[(Endavi)] No, that is propaganda that has no basis in statistics, because we have furnished data. We worked by statistics. There is information that many people do not know. Sixty percent of our soldiers and Armed Forces [word indistinct] belong to Savimbi's ethnic groups or [word indistinct]. Therefore, Savimbi cannot say that he controls the ethnic group [word indistinct]. We have great combatants, great soldiers, many soldiers who fight UNITA and belong to Savimbi's ethnic group.

[Pirez] Does UNITA only clash with FAPLA or does it attack other targets?

[(Endavi)] No, lately it has been massacring the population to destabilize the country. We have been forced to give more protection to economic targets. UNITA attacks those targets more often. It tries to sabotage economic targets, to place bombs, and to destroy. That is why we say that UNITA represents the complementary forces of the South African racist regime and Army. UNITA follows the same policy and organizes the same actions that the South African Army does.

[Pirez] General, what do you think is the main reason for FAPLA's inability to eliminate UNITA militarily?

[(Endavi)] This kind of subversive war...[(Endavi) changes thought] In other words, it [words indistinct]. In other words, in this kind of war, one has to face many things [words indistinct]. It is also a political war, a subversive war carried out by subversive bands permanently supported from abroad. We have to win the war in several aspects; namely, the military, economic, and social aspects of the war. We have to win mainly in those fields. Progress must be made on all fronts, not only in the military arena. Therefore, we are trying to eliminate the social nature of UNITA. This is why we are trying to corner UNITA, to separate it from populated areas, and allow the people see its true nature.

[Pirez] In other words, the struggle against UNITA is not merely a military fight. I would like to know [word indistinct] how the physical presence of South African forces in two of the Angolan provinces — Cuando Cubango and Cunene — and in Namibian territory affects UNITA?

[(Endavi)] UNITA, of course, finds support in the South African Army. The South African regime directly supports UNITA. [Words indistinct]. That is why UNITA would have a lot more problems without the presence of the South African Army, of the South African racist regime in Namibia. Its main problems would deal with the supply of ammunition, weapons, and mines. UNITA would have a great deal of problems. One thing is related to the other: the presence of the UNITA forces is linked to the presence of the South Africans on the Angolan border.

[Pirez] Is the much-touted Buffalo Battalion composed only of South Africans or is it also composed of Angolans, or people of other nationalities?

[(Endavi)] Yes, the Buffalo Battalion is primarily comprised of Angolans. They are former FNLA [National Front for the Liberation of Angola] [word indistinct] as mercenaries; they are the majority in this battalion. Of course, the leaders are South Africans; some other positions are also occupied by South Africans, but they are mostly mercenaries.

[Pirez] The MPLA, the People's Republic of Angola, maintains a policy of mercy for those who wish to abandon the unpatriotic struggle, whether they are from UNITA or from any of the other organizations. However, it is not willing to talk or negotiate with UNITA.

[(Endavi)] We do not talk with organizations. We have mercy on individuals, individuals, [repeats himself] with members of those organizations. We have practiced that policy with thousands and thousands of FNLA members who have come to us, including chiefs and military men of various ranks. They have come to us. Some of them were [words indistinct] in our country; others were in other countries [word indistinct]; and others even were in Europe. This indicates that our policy is correct, and that it offers mercy to individuals. We do not talk with organizations [words indistinct] organization [words indistinct] the people that the MPLA-PT and also the government, which was elected by our people.

[Pirez] How do you, General Endavi, value Cuban cooperation in the defense of the Angolan fatherland?

[(Endavi)] We know that Cuba has been helping us since the times of the guerrillas. We can say that Cuba is the country for the Angolan revolution in many cases. It has been essential, basic for the Angolan revolution. At the most difficult, worst, and most dangerous moments, we always have had the Cuban combatants by our side. They gave us all their support. It is not a secret that many of them have lost their lives defending the Angolan revolution.

Existence, Activities of Jurist Group Banned

MB200611 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] Comrade Afonso van Dunem, minister of foreign affairs, yesterday signed a document that forbids the existence of offices or installations for the exercise of any activity on behalf of the Association of the African Jurists [name as head] within the Angolan territory. The document states that the Association of

African Jurists is an institution not currently recognized by the Angolan Government. This is why its statutes are not officially published.

The document also notes that the prohibition of the existence and practice of activities on behalf of the Association of African Jurists results from the need to safeguard respect for the norms of local positive [as heard] law. Representatives of the Association of African Jurists have been active in Angola without permission from competent Angolan authorities.

'Judicious' Assessment of Peace Prospects Sought

MB200640 (Clandestine) KUP in French to Southern and Central Africa 0600 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] Free Land of Angola, 20 Feb (KUP) — The events which have been taking place in Luanda over the last few days confirm the state of saturation [as heard] of the people in the capital and reflect the MPLA regime's lack of control in the face of the people's discontent 11 years after independence.

In fact, this situation calls for a more attentive and judicious assessment by the international community of alternative paths to the restoration of peace in Angola.

With so many opposition groups silenced by the state of emergency currently in force, weapons, and bombs dropped by Soviet military aircraft, as well as all other irregularities afflicting the country, Angola needs a more profound, humane, and impartial approach by the international community.

Let us hope that competent organizations, notably human rights organizations and the West, will understand what must be done to resolve Angola's current situation. Why not help bring about talks between the parties at war in our country?

MOZAMBIQUE

Chissano, Delegation Depart on Visit to Zambia

MB191229 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Joaquim Chissano, chairman of the Frelimo Party and president of the People's Republic of Mozambique, left Maputo this morning on an official and friendly 3-day visit to the Republic of Zambia at the invitation of Kenneth Kaunda, chairman of the United National Independence Party, and president of the Republic of Zambia.

The Mozambique presidential delegation includes distinguished party and government officials, as well as officials from democratic mass organizations. Particularly worthy of note among these officials are Minister of Security Mariano Matsinhe, who is also a member of the Frelimo Party Political Bureau; Minister of Foreign Affairs Pascoal Mocumbi; Lieutenant General Armando Panguene, National Political Commissioner and deputy minister of defense; Eduardo Arao, secretary of the Frelimo Party Central Committee for Organization; Oswaldo Tazama, secretary of state for war veterans; Salome Moiane, general secretary of the Organization of Mozambique Women; Zacarias Kupela, general secretary of the Mozambique Youth Organization; and (Ivone Mahumane), general secretary of the continuators of the Mozambique Revolution.

After Tanzania, this is President Joaquim Chissano's second foreign visit as head of state.

NAMIBIA

254 SWAPO 'Operational Losses' So Far in 1987

MB191059 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1055 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Windhoek Feb 19 SAPA — Security forces in northern SWA/Namibia have shot and killed 19 SWAPO insurgents in the last seven days, bringing to 254 the number of SWAPO operational losses to date this year, the SWA Territory Force said in Windhoek today.

Two members of the security died in action in the same period, and their names have already been released.

According to SWATF statistics, 645 SWAPO insurgents died last year compared to 599 in 1985.

The SWATF said in a statement today a SWAPO insurgent had shot and killed an Ovambo headman, Mr Tauno Amumimi, 50, at his home near Ongandjera last Saturday.

Mr Amumimi was shot in the back and the head with an AK-47 rifle.

Early yesterday, SWAPO insurgents launched a stand-off bombardment on the kraal of a headwoman albertina 20km from Oshakati in northern SWA/Namibia. The projectiles were wide off the target and the attack failed, the SWATF said. Follow up operations by the security forces were hampered by heavy rains in the region.

The incident once more "confirms that prominent and traditional leaders of Ovambo remain the target of SWAPO's terror faction," the SWATF said.

SOUTH AFRICA

Further Reportage on Attack on Ciskei President

'No Doubt' Gunmen From Transkei

MB191246 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1236 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Bisho, Feb 19, SAPA — There was no doubt the people who attacked Ciskei President Lennox Sebe's private residence, early this morning were from the Transkei task force, the deputy director for communications and information, Mr Headman Somtunzi, said today. He said they were under a Colonel Gambolen and Selous Scouts who were based at Port St Johns in Transkei.

Mr Somtunzi, said he had documentary proof the attackers had crossed through South Africa into Ciskei to launch the attack.

He said the episode started at about 2am when a group of military men arrived at the president's house in trucks and cars and made inquiries. "Suddenly, there was an exchange of gunfire and during the ensuing gun battle, the Ciskeian soldiers overpowered the attackers who fled leaving behind the trucks, car and some munitions."

One of the cars was found with bullet holes on the road to King Williams Town. He said the car, a Mazda, had been hired from Avis by Mr Michael Gresbe, who had approached him, claiming to be a reporter.

He said he helped Mr Gresbe to book in at the Amatola Sun Hotel on February 12. The following day, he had left.

Mr Somtunzi said that on February 17, Mr Gresbe again booked in at the hotel and left the following day, on February 18.

"This is a proof that Mr Gresbe is one of the people who had been hired to attack the president — which occurred early today," he said.

Mr Somtunzi said the dead soldier has been identified as coming from Transkei, but for security reasons his name has been withheld.

He said a number of Transkei soldiers were injured.

One of them had been admitted to Cecelia Makiwane Hospital in Mdantsane under police guard.

He said one of those captured was Maj Nkosinati Sandile, who had recently emerged in Transkei.

Maj Sandile, after he had been apprehended in Transkei, appeared at a press conference in Umtata, claimed that he had been sent on a mission directly by the Ciskei president to kill or abduct, Gen Charles Sebe, his brother. The charges had been vehemently denied by Ciskei authorities.

Mr Somtunzi said life was normal at Bisho as people had been assured of their safety.

He said follow-up operations had been launched throughout Ciskei for those who had been injured and escaped.

He said the security network would be intensified throughout Ciskei.

An appeal has been made to all the Ciskeians to be on the lookout for suspicious injured persons.

Entrances to various townships in the Ciskei since early this morning had been manned by members of the security forces.

At Bisho, civil servants were continuing with their normal work.

Before the press conference, journalists were taken to President Sebe's residence where there was a big defence force truck with a Transkei registration XG207 and also a small army truck. There were also three other cars parked on the road near the scene. The vehicles had lots of bullet holes and windscreens were broken.

Next to one of the trucks there was the body of a soldier in a defence force brown uniform. Next to the body, were various weapons and ammunition.

Mr Somtunzi said it had been proved that Transkei had always been aggressive towards Ciskei. He said further statements would be released.

Pik Botha: Warning Issued

MB191717 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1715 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Cape Town, February 19, SAPA — The South African Government had warned the Transkeian Government that it would not tolerate its territory being used for violence against Ciskei, the minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, said tonight. The Ciskeian Government had been asked to cooperate and allow Transkeian citizens who fled across the border to return to Ciskei.

Mr Botha issued a statement in which he said the South African Government had made it clear to the two governments that it could not take sides. "On the other hand, the two governments were told that their differences were causing South African interests to be affected directly."

4 More Attackers Captured

MB191942 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1915 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] The latest reports from King Williams Town say that four more of the armed men who attacked the private residence of President Lennox Sebe of Ciskei this morning have been captured. They were captured near Bisho. During the shooting at the President Sebe's house, one of the attackers was shot dead and two captured. One of the captured men was wounded and he is under police guard in the Cecilia Makiwane Hospital at Mdantsane. Ciskeian security forces have launched an intensive search for the other attackers.

Ciskei Identifies 2 Involved

MB200551 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0120 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] Bisho Feb 19 SAPA — The mysteries about the night raid on the private residence of the president of Ciskei, Chief Lennox Sebe, remained today as follow-up operations continued. The mysteries are:

— A car abandoned at the shooting scene, parked next to the Transkei-registered troop carrier and land cruiser, which were hired by a person who identified himself as a French journalist when he visited Ciskei Government offices during the past two

weeks; and

— The role in the attack on the president of a 32-year-old Ciskei Defence Force officer, Major N. Sandile, who was captured in Transkei last month while allegedly on a mission to abduct Mr Charles Sebe.

At a press conference today, the deputy director-general in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Information, Mr Headman Somtunzi, identified the mystery Frenchman as Mr Michael Desble. Mr Somtunzi said Mr Sesble [different name spellings as received] had approached him about writing a book on Ciskei. "We have since established with the hotel where he was booked in that the registration number of the abandoned car, KWH949T is the same car he drove when he was staying at the hotel."

At a press conference in Umtata last month, Major Sandile said he received a personal order from President Sebe to either abduct or kill Mr Charles Sebe in Transkei. This was denied by Ciskei who said Major Sandile had been speaking under duress.

Today, a Ciskei Government spokesman said that Major Sandile had approached guards at President Sebe's home just before the attack, and told them he was back in Ciskei.

The ten-minute gun battle then erupted which left one dead and one critically injured.

The liaison officer for the police, Col Avery Ngaki, was quizzed at the press conference about Major Sandile's role and whether he had been acting voluntarily or under duress. "All we can say at this stage is that his presence is confirmed and that he has been captured. He is being interrogated now," Col Ngaki said.

No Comment From Transkei

MB200538 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2216 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Umtata Feb 19 SAPA — The Transkei Government remained tight-lipped today on allegations by Ciskei that the raid on Ciskei President Lennox Sebe's private Bisho home today had been carried out by members of the Transkei Defence Force. Transkei's minister of foreign affairs, Mr C.P. Songca, said no statement would be released on the matter today.

Meanwhile, a special cabinet meeting was called by the prime minister, Chief George Matanzima, in the wake of the news of the attack. No statement was released after the meeting.

The commander of the Transkei Defence Force, General Z. Mtirara, said he could not comment on the matter.

Vlok Orders Ban on Statements by ANC's Sebina

MB201151 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1150 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] Pretoria Feb 20 SAPA — The minister of law and order, Mr Adriaan Vlok, placed a ban today on quoting the African National Congress's publicity officer, Mr Tom Sebina.

Observers said it appeared that "the government had finally woken up" to the fact that Mr Sebina, based in Lusaka, was still being quoted in South Africa.

A notice gazetted in Pretoria today said Section 56 (1) (P) of the Internal Security Act was being made applicable to Mr Sebina.

Mr Sebina, 50, used to live in Dube, Soweto, before leaving the country.

The notice said that Mr Sebina was previously known as Mr Thomas Tou Letlalo.

Dr Tom Lodge of the University of the Witwatersrand's Department of Political Studies called the ban "childish and stupid." "It will have no effect on the ANC's popularity, but may keep whites ignorant about black political aspirations," he said in Johannesburg.

Police 'Arrest' KwaNdebele Prince at Courthouse

MB191359 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1354 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Johannesburg Feb 19 SAPA — Kwandebele's Prince James Mahlangu was yesterday taken away by police as he left the Pretoria Supreme Court where he was applying for the re-opening of the Ndzundza tribal authority offices. A number of the Prince supporters, who were in court, showed shock when police took him away when he left the court shortly after the hearing. A request to the police for the reason for the arrest had not yet been answered. Judgment on the application will be given later today.

Prince James applied for an order against Kwandebele's chief minister, Mr George Mahlangu, and the homelands commissioner of police, Brig H.C. Lerm, who, he alleges, unlawfully closed offices of the Ndzundza tribal authority on January 23. A number of the authority's vehicles were also confiscated.

Prince James said in court that he was told the decision to close the offices was taken by the legislative assembly. During argument, lawyers for Prince James said Mr Mahlangu and Brig Lerm had acted unlawfully in closing the Ndzundza offices and by seizing documents and vehicles.

They said tribal authorities had a very important role to play and the closure of the offices could bring this to an end.

Counsel for the chief minister and the police commissioner said the offices were closed becuase the Ndzundza tribal authority had no funds to continue operating.

Denis Worrall To Contest Heunis' Seat

MB191528 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1527 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Somerset West Feb 19 SAPA — Dr Denis Worrall, former ambassador to London, announced today that he will contest the Helderberg constituency as an independent in the May 6 general

election for whites.

Helderberg is held by Mr Chris Heunis, minister of constitutional development and planning and the leader of the National Party in the Cape Province.

Dr Worrall, announcing yesterday that he would stand against the NP, criticised government policies as yesterday's politics — like a two-year-old lettuce salad.

In today's announcement of his choice of Helderberg, Dr Worrall reverted to the theme:

"The government speaks of new political institutions for our fellow black South Africans, but offers nothing more concrete than city states. This is yesterday's politics," he said.

"Unless the government is given a real mandate by voters who normally support it, this election will not have served any purpose at all. Hence my decision to stand as an independent candidate in the Helderberg constituency.

To win Helderberg I need the support of a substantial number of voters who supported the government's candidate in 1977 and 1981.

"I am confident that I will get this support because the government completely under-estimates the readiness of white South Africans for fundamental change. This is what the voters of Helderberg will demonstrate."

"The government is missing out on a new spirit in the land, a spirit which thirsts for a clear, shared vision of a democratic South Africa.

"A spirit which cuts across political, racial and cultural lines, and which rejects foreign meddling and violence and slow economic decline.

"A spirit which says that our Republic can be a successful, peaceful place. A spirit which says that South Africa can have a brilliant future — if only we will shake off our political paralysis.

"The people of this country are looking for a vision which will carry them, their children and their grand-children into the 21st century.

"I share this vision with many other South Africans in all communities, and with Wynand Malan, the Randburg independent, who will give it content in the course of the election campaign.

"Victory for Wynand Malan in Randburg and Denis Worrall in Helderberg will not bring down the National Party government. But what a powerful message it will send.

"A message to the government from white South Africans that they are impatient for answers, that they want some light at the end of the tunnel, that they want to be proud to be South Africans again. A message to our fellow black South Africans that there is hope. And a message to well-wishers and friends around the world that peaceful answers are possible."

Heunis, Eglin React

MB200556 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] The member of parliament for Helderberg and minister of constitutional development and planning, Mr Chris Heunis, and the leader of the PFP, Mr Colin Eglin, have reacted to the announcement by Dr Denis Worrall that he will stand as an independent in the Helderberg constituency in the general election. Mr Heunis said that South Africa was a free country and that Dr Worrall could stand wherever he wished.

Mr Eglin said he would have discussions with the party's constituency committee with the view to deciding whether or not to contest the seat. Only the NP has nominated a candidate in Helderberg so far. Our parliamentary staff reports that it is unlikely that the PFP will nominate a candidate to stand in Helderberg.

Buthelezi Condemns Attack on Inkatha Members

MB191647 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1644 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Ulundi, Feb 19, SAPA — Chief Saul Lushaba, seriously injured in a hand grenade attack, is not expected to live, according to the chief minister of KwaZulu and president of Inkatha, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

The grenade was thrown into a vehicle in which four Inkatha members were travelling in Clermont, near Durban, just after 5,30pm yesterday.

In a statement to SAPA from Ulundi, Chief Buthelezi said: "This barbaric act of assassination is the latest in a series of attacks on Inkatha members and supporters and once again I plead for an end to all political violence.

"I also note that my office has only received two calls for comment from the press in this regard and find it strange that when Inkatha men, women and children are butchered there is a noticeable lack of interest from the media — the foreign press in particular."

Two other occupants of the vehicle, Chief Calalabakubo Khalula and Mr Mhlahlo Mlotshwa (also known as Jamile), who suffered slight injuries, are members of the KwaZulu legislative assembly and serve on the central committee of Inkatha.

Chief Buthelezi added: Chief Saul Lushaba, who is not expected to live, is married to my niece and a niece of Chief Khalula. She is a grand-daughter of King Solomon.

Information Bureau Reports More 18 Feb Unrest

MB191612 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1611 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] Pretoria, Feb 19 SAPA — The Bureau for Information has issued the following additional unrest report:

"At 21H30 last night hand grenades were thrown at the home of Soweto Councillor Violet Petjualema by unknown assailants.

"Four hand grenades exploded, slightly injuring two municipal policemen and causing minimal damage to the house and a vehicle parked outside.

"The connection between the victim and the assailants is not known.

"Police investigations are continuing."

19 Feb Unrest Report

MB201011 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1009 GMT 20 Feb 87

[Text] Pretoria Feb 20 SAPA — Following is the Bureau for Information's daily unrest report (received by SAPA at 12:04)

"Unrest report 00h01 to 24h00 (19 February):

"A black man was arrested in Claremont (Durban) yesterday after he had been identified by a member of the security forces as one of the instigators of a stone throwing incident on 12 February, aimed at the security forces.

"A group of black radicals threw stones at a school in Mangaung (Bloemfontein) yesterday. The headmaster and his wife, Mr and Mrs Quenana sustained slight injuries in the incident. Damage to the school was minimal. No arrests have been made thus far.
"In Dobsonville (Soweto), unknown persons threw a hand grenade at a private home. The hand grenade exploded in the back yard and minimal damage was caused to the house. No arrests have been made thus far."

Press Comments on Current Issues, Problems

MB200633 [Editorial Report]

THE CITIZEN Critical of U.S. Disinvestment

The page 6 editorial in Johannesburg *The Citizen* in English on 19 February comments on the withdrawal of Kentucky Fried Chicken from RSA, saying: "Its one of the nicer aspects of the whole disinvestment scene — that South Africans can buy up U.S. firms cheaply when the Americans quit." Yet the paper points out that "disappointment over the pace of reform hardly concerns foreign firms, since this has nothing to do with them and, in any case, they can do more for social upliftment here than by taking wing back to the United States." "Since there is a growing awareness in the United States that disinvestment and sanctions are counterproductive and are not doing the Black cause here any good whatsoever, one would have thought that U.S. firms would be putting up greater resistance to the disinvestment-sanctions lobby, and the U.S. Government would be helping them to do so. Otherwise, how is the U.S. going to maintain its hold on South Africa."

STAR: Media Politicization Continues

A page 14 editorial in Johannesburg *The Star* in English on 19 February says the pattern of news regression continues. "Emergency curbs and arrogantly uncommunicative rulers; unpopular people who may not be quoted and events (like teargassing of detainees) that may not be reported on; less and less known about more and more. And TV compounds the problem by parading Cabinet Ministers as if the only reality is the voice of the National Party." "Our nation has regressed from a country with pride in justice and the courts to a point where both are simply ignored. Any man can be detained — can vanish — and his protests of innocence never heard. Now even Parliament is refused information. So much for the security of the individual. The system has become as dangerous as the chaos it is trying to prevent."

Better Chance for Independents in Elections

Peter Fabricius writes on the same page that former ambassador to London Denis Worrall and former NP MP to Randburg Wynand Malan are "the tip of an iceberg in South African political thinking which the opposition hopes will seriously jolt the titanic National Party in the May 6 election." "Though independents have traditionally fared badly in South African politics, a high-profile candidate like Dr Worrall standing at a time when the traditional divisions between parties are beginning to blur in favour of alliance/negotiation politics, stands a better than usual chance." Fabricius believes that Worrall and Malan's "dilemma will perhaps be to try to ally themselves sufficiently with the PFP/NRP alliance to form a broad reformist opposition, but at the same time not to approach so closely that they lose their conservative support. The PFP clearly hopes that in the seats where Dr Worrall and Mr Malan are not standing the PFP will derive the benefit of the independent support by presenting itself to more conservative voters as the next best thing to a Worrall or a Malan."

BUSINESS DAY on Political Damage to Economy

"For many reasons, South Africans have good cause to be moderatly optimistic about economic prospects for 1987, notwithstanding the current retreat in the gold price," notes a page 4 editorial in Johannesburg *Business Day* in English on 19 February. But, "much of the gain is rendered inconsequential however, by politics. The election campaign, which looks like being not only prolonged but also divisive and dirty, emphasises a basic instability the political problems of the country are not being engaged in any way that is likely to be effective." "Outsiders, who generally have little understanding of the subtleties of South African politics, will see in the rhetoric of the election an indication that government has abandoned reform. They will see in the heavy emphasis on fighting the ANC and the Americans, among other irrelevant targets, a determination to fight rather than switch." "SA is governed now by a party that, whatever its past record may have been, lacks both credible policies and credible leadership. And the price is paid in lost prosperity."

CAPE TIMES Against Self-Censorship

A page 8 editorial in Cape Town *Cape Times* in English on 18

February notes that "the government has suspended discussions with the press and has presumably given up its plan to negotiate 'guidelines' with the established press, which some thought could be policed by a Media Council that could never in a month of Sundays do such a political job. Such a self-censorship deal would have released the established press from the legal provisions of the emergency, allowing the government to throw the full force of emergency law at newspapers such as *Weekly Mail, New Nation* and others. Now it can do its own dirty work." "The press controversy has focused attention on the fact that, at the end of the day, newspapers worth the name have to be seen to be independent of government. This is more difficult for those who are in the government's pocket, to be sure."

SOWETAN Criticizes Homeland Leadership

"The farcical situation between Ciskei and Transkei would be funny if it was not such a tragedy," says the page 4 editorial in Johannesburg *Sowetan* in English on 19 February. "For while tinpot homeland leaders are strutting about and pouring out nonsensical rhetoric the people are suffering." "For almost a decade there has been mismanagement and harassment of people by despots who were shot into power by the white government of South Africa. The truth is beginning to dawn on these leaders that they will not be able to sustain the fraud of running so-called independence through the whims and the economic support of white South Africa. They are now behaving like dangerous clowns."

DIE VADERLAND on Minority Protection

Johannesburg *Die Vaderland* in Afrikaans on 18 February says in a page 12 editorial that the NP manifesto does not contain any new policy declaration but "it is not necessary since the party has through word and deed committed itself to the abolition of discrimination and to a new reform constitution." "The NP asks the electorate for a mandate to lead the country to a new settlement where all communities will enjoy full participation. It must be interwoven into a system of structures where there are not merely protection clauses for minority groups. The structures must be in such a way that it is impossible for one group or a number of groups to dominate the rest, to rule alone. Self-preservation in each case must be structurally inbuilt."

BEELD Criticizes PFP Alliance Politics

A page 18 editorial in Johannesburg *Beeld* in Afrikaans on 19 February says the fact that PFP leader Colin Eglin makes such a fuss about "so-called alliance politics" is an admission that the PFP leadership alone is "not in a position to win the support of enough South Africans to make it an alternative government. Now he is scrounging from all who do not have a political home." "This is the party that hopes to attract all political shades around it — as long as they are anti-NP. We are beginning to suspect that the PFP's greatest problem is that it has never fully understood South African politics."

SWAZILAND

King Speaks on Agro-Industry, Education

MB191200 Mbabane Domestic Service in Siswati 0927 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Address by King Mswati III to opening of the fourth session of the Fourth Parliament of the Kingdom of Swaziland at Lobamba House; Mswati speaks in English with superimposed Siswati translation — live]

[Text] Mr President of the Senate; Mr Speaker of the House of Assembly; your Royal Highnesses; distinguished guests of the diplomatic corps; cabinet ministers; honorable senators; honorable members of the House of Assembly; distinguished visitors; and ladies and gentlemen. It is my great pleasure and honor to welcome you all to this fourth session of the Fourth Parliament of the Kingdom of Swaziland.

I beseech God to provide you with the wisdom, strength, and proper understanding during your deliberations aimed at promoting this country's welfare. It is a heavy responsibility that has been placed on your shoulders. I am confident that this parliament, which represents the popular will of the Swazi people, will try by all means to make a success of the values and norms that the Swazi people hold dear to their hearts.

I and my government are quite determined to build a better future for this nation, based on the firm solid foundation laid out by our late monarch, King Sobhuza II. In fact, the Kingdom of Swaziland will continue to follow its timeworn course of not interferring in other countries' internal affairs. But at the same time, it will embark on earnest efforts aimed at finding a peaceful solution to the problems facing mankind. We, as a nation, believe in peaceful coexistence and peaceful resolution of political and related problems through dialogue.

What encourages our political outlook on peaceful resolution of problems through dialogue is the fact that many of Swaziland's allies in Africa and overseas also subscribe to this concept. We are quite certain that it is only through this policy that mankind can be saved from untold suffering and perdition accompanied by painful existence. We sincerely believe in peaceful existence and also pray accordingly that the way of peace will be discovered by all concerned in unravelling the dangerous problems looming in southern Africa and elsewhere in the world. Thus, people will be able to continue their various pursuits in an atmosphere of peace and harmony.

As of this moment, with great determination and unity of purpose, let us strive to make Swaziland a well-governed place within the community of nations. Over the years my government has tried to put together strategic plans to carry out the fourth national development plan with the aim of providing a proper financial base within the government ministries, which would permit the furtherance of the Swazi people's welfare.

The fourth development plan is available. However, in my address I will just deal with those aspects that are important and significant. The main thrust of the fourth development plan is to

upgrade the people's standard of living. We as a nation cannot have any pride if, after 19 years of independence, we still fail to feed ourselves. Thus, it is quite necessary that we once again revise and closely examine our policies on food production and processing in this country. My government has to take steps to reexamine this problem with a view to finding the root causes for the poor performance of the agroindustry.

I hope that by the time we next meet here, the two responsible ministries — that is the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Industry and Commerce — will have taken definitive steps to accelerate the development of the agroindustry in such a manner that rural people will be afforded employment in their home areas.

Mr President, another matter I wish to refer to concerns a great grievance emanating from the Swazi nation. The nation alleges that some educational institutions in Swaziland are pursuing an elitist admissions policy, whereby only first class passes are accepted to the exclusion of third and second class passes. This is a strange and unacceptable phenomenon. [applause] If this is the method being employed by the educational institutions in Swaziland, we had better take a second look. Something is wrong. The Ministry of Education should deal with this matter quickly.

This nation has an unchangeable policy that each child in Swaziland deserves to be educated in school to receive a proper education. There is no nation that can achieve success without proper education for all its people. The nation should also know that school textbooks in all schools ought to be rented out to the pupils on an annual basis. These rapid changes in the curriculum of prescribed texts works to the disadvantage of the nation. Textbooks should be used over a defined period of time to allow many members of the same family to reuse books as they reach a particular standard. [applause]

What I have mentioned here is what I consider to be very important to the Swazi people and what I hope you will find remedies for during your deliberations in this parliament.

Mr President and honorable senators, Mr Speaker of the House and honorable members of the House of Assembly, it is my great pleasure to declare the fourth session of the Fourth Parliament of the Kingdom of Swaziland open. Thank you. [royal salute from audience]

ZAMBIA

Kaunda, Mozambique's Chissano Begin Talks

MB191840 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 19 Feb 87

[Text] The president, Dr Kaunda, has accused South Africa of impoverishing countries in the region through acts of destabilization (?perpetrated) by its bandit-sponsored groups. Comrade Kaunda, who was speaking at the beginning of the official talks with visiting Mozambican President Joaquim Chissano at State House this afternoon, regretted that these countries that have heavily invested in South Africa were supporting bandit groups in Mozambique and Angola. He, however, pointed out that no amount of destabilization will stop countries in the region from fighting the system of apartheid

Comrade Chissano, in reply, commended the role Zambia played in the independence struggle of Mozambique. He said that now Mozambique had won their political independence emphasis should now be placed on the attainment of economic and social independence.